

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha. I have allowed a number of questions.

Some Hon. Members: What about No. 2?

Mr. Speaker: It has been transferred to the 20th.

Refugees from East Pakistan

Shri Sadhan Gupta:

- *3. { Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:

Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 9,000 out of 25,000 East Pakistan refugees sent to Bettiah for settlement have deserted their camps and gone back to West Bengal during the last one month; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Out of 28,075 displaced persons from East Pakistan admitted in Bettiah Camp, Bihar, 10,358 deserted the camp upto 15th April, 1957.

(b) The desertions were mostly due to misleading propaganda by some interested persons who worked up the emotions of the displaced persons by giving them hopes of rehabilitation in West Bengal.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that living conditions and amenities in the camp are very deplorable and whether, in particular, the refugees there are being housed in tents 10' by 8' per family and with very inadequate water supply, and so on and so forth, and if so, whether this is misleading propaganda?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: If the hon. Member is referring to the living conditions in the Bettiah Camp

in Bihar, then I wish to submit that the conditions in that camp are very satisfactory. As for the minor complaints that have been alleged by the hon. Member if reference is made to any particular complaint, I shall have it looked into.

As regards the tents, I have no personal knowledge, but the tents are of a standard size, and should be of the same size as in West Bengal.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know whether the attention of the Minister has been drawn to lengthy reports by the special correspondent of *The Statesman* in the Calcutta edition of that paper, of the 4th and 5th April, 1957, and also to the lengthy report by the special reporter to the *Amrit Bazar Patrika*—of the 16th April— which is generally a supporter of the Congress Government—to the effect that:

"Except for somewhat inadequate arrangements for supply of drinking water, no amenities that are generally associated with human life are visible. The people live in small stinky tents surrounded by filth and garbage. Sanitary arrangements are totally absent."

and if so, why no contradiction was issued from Government side? At least, I understand that there is an establishment of the Ministry at Calcutta, and they could have easily contradicted these things which came out in the papers.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I visited that camp myself. I have also read the two articles referred to by the hon. Member. Some of the reporters who have been there are alleged to have stated that the conditions in the camp in Bihar—though I do not wish to compare them—are better than those in most of the camps in other places.

Shri Gajendra Prasad: May I know whether a Minister from Bengal recently visited Bettiah camp and said that the living condition there was more than satisfactory? And is

it not a fact that some political organisations in West Bengal are interested in creating trouble and they suggested to these displaced persons to go away from Bettiah camp to Bengal?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As regards the second part of the question, I do not wish to answer. But as regards the first part, the answer is in the affirmative.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know whether it is a fact that there has been no desertion from the rehabilitation centres in Bettiah, which have been found very satisfactory and where refugees are very happy, while desertions have taken place only from those transit camps where these refugees were made to stay for nine months with no prospect of rehabilitation there?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The information that has been conveyed to the House by the hon. Member, namely that no desertions have taken place from our rehabilitation colonies is not wholly correct. Some desertions have lately taken place.

As regards the Bettiah camp, people were sent there in June 1956. No desertions of any large magnitude took place from that camp till 1st March, 1957. For eight to nine months, not a single desertion took place—I mean desertions of a sizable nature. All the desertions that did take place in large numbers were on the eve of the elections in West Bengal, that is, on the 2nd and 7th March, 1957.

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty: May I know what is the reason why the Ministry has refused to appoint an Inquiry Committee to go into this whole matter, a suggestion which was made by leaders of all parties, which would have solved the problem to some extent?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: No suggestion of that nature has been made to me. But ten days ago, some leaders

of leftist parties came to see me in Calcutta. They suggested that an Inquiry Committee consisting of the Government and all the leftist parties might be appointed to look into the conditions of the camp in Bettiah. I said 'no', for the obvious reason that if a committee was to be appointed, there would be so many others who would also come and ask for the same privileges or concessions. But I told the members of the leftist parties then—and I repeat my invitation to some of the hon. friends sitting opposite—that if any one of them would like to visit the camp, I shall see that all facilities are placed at their disposal.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Could Government tell us here and now how many refugees from East Pakistan they are prepared to have in permanent rehabilitation centres in Bettiah and elsewhere, in view of the Ministers having stated that there is no further room in West Bengal and also in view of the fact that the refugees come away only when they are temporarily made to hang about in some transit centre?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The position has not been fully appreciated, because on the eve of elections in West Bengal desertions did take place not only from Bettiah but also from rehabilitation colonies and centres in West Bengal itself. Their number is about 8,000 to 9,000. The number of persons who have deserted the camp in Bettiah and the colonies in West Bengal today is about 18,000. It is strange that no reference is made to deserters from the camps and colonies in West Bengal, though they have been lying on the same platforms and in the same streets.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या सरकार ने इस बात की जांच-पड़ताल की है कि गत आम चुनाव के एक दो हफ्ते पहले से कुछ इन्स्टिट्यूट पार्टीज ने बेतिया और कुंवरबाग रेक्यूजी कैम्प में रहने वालों को उकसाया और भड़काया, ताकि बिहार और बंगाल

गवर्नमेंट्स को बदनाम किया जाय और चुनाव में कांग्रेस को हराया जाय ?

श्री शेहर शम्भू शर्मा : प्रान्तेजल मेम्बर ने जो कुछ फरमाया है, वह बहुत हद तक दुस्त है। इस में बिहार गवर्नमेंट का सिफ़ इतना ही सवाल था कि उस को बदनाम किया जाय, लेकिन अगर कोई फ़ायदे की बात थी तो वह बंगाल के मुतास्तिक थी।

Industrial Development

*4. **Shri Harihar Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have examined the recommendations made by the States Reorganisation Commission in their report (paras 842 to 844) that Government should consider the question of formulating an industrial location plan for the whole of India in order to ensure the equitable distribution of development expenditure; and

(b) if so, their conclusions and the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). It is true that the States Reorganization Commission has mooted the idea of industrial location plan. The First and Second Plans have also laid great stress on regional development in industrial plans with a view to achieving a considerable measure of balance in industrial development between different regions of the country and economic utilisation of resources of each region. This was further reiterated in the Industrial Policy Resolution of the 30th April, 1956. Accordingly, while sanctioning new industrial schemes under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, along with several other factors such as the utility and technical soundness of the schemes, regional considerations are borne in

mind and an endeavour is made to disperse industries to different regions on the basis of (i) the availability of raw materials, (ii) supply of water and electric power, (iii) transport facilities and (iv) proximity to consuming markets.

Shri H. C. Mathur: May I know what special consideration is given to the under-developed areas in view of these recommendations? as also the policy of Government?

Shri Manubhai Shah: To give an example, there are certain regions which are having a number of textile mills while others have very few textile mills or practically none. Therefore, the next allocation of spindles is so carefully made as to give more spindles to those areas where there is none.

Shri Heda: Are there large parts in the country where no industry was established by the Centre in the last five to ten years? If so, which are those parts?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as the public sector industries are concerned actually they are sizable and big industries where very great technical and economic considerations have to be looked into. Even there, constant care is taken in order to plan those industries, wherever possible, in areas where there are no big industries.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether it is a fact that the licensing powers vested with the Central Government have not been exercised in such a manner as to facilitate regional development of the areas? May I also enquire whether care has been taken to ensure diversification of consumer industries so as to give relief to the transport system?

Shri Manubhai Shah: For the first part of the question of the hon. Member, the answer is, 'quite the contrary'. Constant care is exercised for the dispersal as well as diversification. For transport facilities also, wherever we find that decentralisation helps in