

INDIANS IN BURMA

*540. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of Indians rendered destitutes by the activities of the insurgents in Burma since 1949; and

(b) the total number of Indians repatriated from Burma since 1949?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The total number of Indian destitutes repatriated from Burma from January 1949 to 30-9-1952 is 13,978. It is not possible to say in how many of these cases destitution was caused by the activities of the insurgents.

Shri P. T. Chacko: What is the total amount that Government had to spend for repatriating these Indians?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: From 1st January 1949 to 30th September, 1952, the amount involved was Rs. 8,21,635.

Shri P. T. Chacko: What is the aid which the Government of Burma gave for repatriating these Indians, and also for the evacuation of Indians, from rebel-held areas in Burma to Rangoon?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Government paid their steamer passages, and for their food and shelter during the days they had to wait in Rangoon while on shift to India.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Government of Burma has expended anything for this purpose?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have already said that we have spent Rs. 8,21,635/- on these people.

Shri P. T. Chacko: That is by the Government of Burma.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: No. It has been spent by the Government of India.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether Government have any idea as to the number of Indians now held up in rebel-held areas?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I do not know, Sir, if the areas in the hands of the rebels are clearly demarcated, but most of the Indians who were in troublesome areas had come away from those areas by 1949 which was the peak of the insurgent movement.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know whether the Government have ascertained whether these Indians have come out of their own accord or have been squeezed out?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have no dealings with the rebels in those areas, and we, therefore, cannot ascertain whether they were squeezed out or whether they came out themselves.

PLANNING COMMISSION

*541. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent till 15th October, 1952, on the Planning Commission; and

(b) the further expenditure that will be required to finalise the Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) A total sum of Rs. 24,96,185/- has been spent by the Planning Commission from its commencement up to October 15, 1952.

(b) A further expenditure of Rs. 99,500/- approximately, is likely to be incurred before the final report on the Five Year Plan is published.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What is the monthly aggregate salary and honoraria given to each of the members of the Planning Commission recruited solely for the sake of the Planning Commission?

Shri Hathi: So far as the salaries of the Members are concerned, only two Members at present draw salaries. Shri V. T. Krishnamachari draws a consolidated honorarium and Shrimati Durgabai draws a salary. The other Members who are, of course, Ministers, do not draw any salary from the Planning Commission.

Shri V. P. Nayar: My question was "What was the monthly aggregate salary?" The answer is that they draw salaries.

Mr. Speaker: Could he give the figures?

Shri Hathi: I cannot give the monthly figures. I can give the annual figures.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Divide it by 12, and you will get the answer.

Mr. Speaker: He can give the annual figures.

Shri Hathi: The pay of these officers is Rs. 2,250/- and Rs. 1,800/-.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): A Member of the Planning Commission is equated with a Minister, i.e., a Minister of non-Cabinet rank.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What is the total amount spent on the tours of the Members of this Planning Commission?

Shri Hathli: As I said just now, there are only two Members drawing pay, and their salaries are Rs. 2,250/- and Rs. 1,800/-.

Mr. Speaker: Can he give the break-up figures for tours?

Shri Hathli: I have no figures with me for that.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: I have one question.

Mr. Speaker: Let us go to the next question. There are other questions.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: The Planning Commission.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let the Planning Commission report come.

METALLURGICAL COAL

*543. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all types of metallurgical coal will be reserved for stowing and washing?

(b) For how many years is the reserve calculated to last?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) It is intended that compulsory stowing for conservation will be enforced in the case of all mines working metallurgical coal, of selected grades and also of grades I and II, if they can be benefited to give large yields of low ash coal. Washing will be necessary primarily in the case of inferior grades of coal so as to make such coal suitable for metallurgical purposes. The problems connected with stowing for conservation and of coal washing are now engaging the attention of the Coal Board, but no detailed plans have yet been finalised by the Board.

(b) At the present rate of output, the reserves of metallurgical coal will last for about 80 years, if no new reserves are discovered and if no measures are taken for stowing, blending and washing; but with stowing, blending and washing, the present reserves will last for about 160 years and for a longer period according to the extent of discovery of new reserves.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING

*544. **Prof. Agarwal:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether Government have drawn up definite schemes for the utilisation of Rupees Nine crores on Industrial Housing during 1952-53?

(b) If so, how many new houses are expected to be completed during the current year?

(c) Which cities have been included in the scheme?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) As the hon. Member is probably aware, a Subsidised Housing Scheme for industrial workers for the current financial year has already been published. Out of a total provision of Rs. 9 crores in the current year's Budget, a sum of over Rs. 7.16 crores is proposed to be spent on industrial housing alone. The balance of the amount, is available to be spent on schemes of slum clearance and loans to House-building Societies of non-industrial low-income groups if suitable schemes are forthcoming.

(b) 28,500 single-roomed tenements are scheduled for construction, under the current year's provision.

(c) The Government's Scheme does not confine itself to particular cities. It is for the various State Governments to scrutinise the requirements of the various cities within their jurisdiction before sending their proposals for aid to the Central Govt. They would doubtless have regard to the pressure of industrial labour and the existing available accommodation for such labour before they forward their proposals to the Central Government.

Prof. Agarwal: Is there any provision in the scheme for the construction of the houses through labour co-operatives?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, Sir.

Prof. Agarwal: Is there any provision for the construction of houses for labour engaged in small-scale industries in cities?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, Sir, if they came within the definition of industrial labour.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is there any scheme for industrial housing round about Calcutta?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, the policy adopted in slum clearance in cities—whether they are merely sent out by paying a nominal price to the huts, or whether alternative hutments are provided for them?

Mr. Speaker: I do not see how it arises, really speaking.