

Shri Datar: So far as the total extent of acreage is concerned, I should like notice; but under the scheme that is proposed, 20,000 acres are to be brought under cultivation.

Shri Dabhi: May we have some idea as to the mineral as well as the forest wealth of these islands?

Shri Datar: So far as crops are concerned paddy, maize, sugar-cane, arhar, mung and sweet potatoes can be grown very easily. So far as other articles are concerned, attempts are being made to cultivate oil-seeds, oil palm, soya beans, cashew nuts and cloves.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we know what are the terms for repayment of the two thousand rupees and the period within which it will have to be repaid?

Shri Datar: The two thousand rupees are to be repaid in easy instalments extending over 20 years.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know whether the amount of Rs. 2,000 is sufficient for the purposes for which it is granted?

Shri Datar: It is considered to be sufficient for the purpose for which it is advanced.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, how these peasant families are being selected? Are applications called for or is there any organisation to find out who want to go there?

Shri Datar: These peasant families would be, in the first instance, the refugees from East Pakistan.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether any interest is being charged on these loans and if so, what interest?

Shri Datar: I have no information here on this subject.

Shri Matthen: Does the Government show any preference to really agriculturist families in this selection?

Shri Datar: Yes.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what is the area so far reclaimed under this scheme?

Shri Datar: Till the end of May 1953, about 1500 acres will have been brought under cultivation.

Shri B. K. Das: Is this in addition to the area that has been reclaimed by the Rehabilitation Ministry or does it include that area?

Shri Datar: The Rehabilitation Ministry has nothing to do with this at all. This is being done only by this Ministry.

Shri Kelappan: May I know whether the facilities are confined only to the displaced persons?

Shri Datar: They are not entirely confined to the displaced persons but preference is given to them.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, whether any preference will be given to people from most densely populated areas or where pressure on land is very much?

Shri Datar: Preference to them would be given subsequently. According to the present plan the total population that can be settled is 1,25,000 and the present population is only 19,000.

Dr. M. M. Das: In view of the fact, Sir, that some complaints were received by Government that the bullocks specially purchased by Government for these refugees who have settled there were old and died in a very short time, may I know whether Government will purchase these bullocks this time or will the refugees purchase them?

Shri Datar: Government have no information, but the complaint that has been pointed out by the hon. Member will be forwarded to the Chief Commissioner for enquiry.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR AS FIELD AREA

*628. **Shri Charak:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Jammu and Kashmir State is considered a field area even now?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for considering it so?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes.

(b) It is necessary to treat this area as a field area for operational and administrative reasons.

TAKING OF FAMILIES BY OFFICERS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

*629. **Shri Charak:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are aware that in the Jammu and Kashmir Area officers of the Indian Army are allowed to take their families after the cease fire of 1st January, 1949?