

**The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle):** (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know the terms of reference of this Committee?

**Shri J. K. Bhonsle:** This Committee is set up to make a survey and assessment of the conditions in relief camps and rehabilitation colonies, in particular of housing and gainful employment and to provide for vocational and technical training to the displaced persons in West Bengal and the results of various rehabilitation measures undertaken by Government and to submit its report to the Minister of Rehabilitation.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know when the Government expect the report of this Committee and is it still working in West Bengal?

**Shri J. K. Bhonsle:** The report should have been submitted to Government by the end of last month but unfortunately, for various reasons, the officers concerned have not been able to complete the report but we hope, by the end of March, the report will be completed.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Is the Committee still touring West Bengal or it has finished this work?

**Shri J. K. Bhonsle:** They went round from 20th of January to the end of January. I am told they are again going from the 19th of this month till the end of this month.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** They will also recommend schemes?

**Shri J. K. Bhonsle:** No.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether this Fact Finding Committee will go into the whole question of rehabilitation of East Bengal refugees or only those in West Bengal?

**Shri J. K. Bhonsle:** For all the States round about.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** May I know the personnel of the Fact Finding Committee?

**Shri J. K. Bhonsle:** Shri K. P. Mathrani, ICS., Jt. Secy., Ministry of Rehabilitation.

Shri N. Raichaudhuri, ICS., Additional Secretary, Refugee and Rehabilitation Department and Additional Refugee Rehabilitation Commissioner, West Bengal.

Shri Satyabrata Sen, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, and

Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis, FRS, of the Indian Statistical Institute and Statistical Adviser to the Cabinet is also there to give his advice whenever required.

**Shri Gidwani:** Do Government propose to appoint a similar Committee for the displaced persons from West Pakistan?

**Shri J. K. Bhonsle:** I want notice of that.

ENQUIRY AGAINST FORMER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY

**\*73. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 804 asked on the 28th November, 1952 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Secretary of the Government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has since been suspended;

(b) whether investigations against him are complete;

(c) whether a departmental enquiry is pending against him; and

(d) why Government have not thought fit to institute Judicial Proceedings against him?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The investigations that the Special Police Establishment were engaged on have been completed.

(c) Government have decided that an enquiry under the Public Servants (Inquiries) Act, 1850, should be held into the charges framed. This would not be a departmental enquiry as, unlike the latter, it would be a public enquiry conducted, not by a departmental officer, but by a Commissioner appointed under the Act who would enjoy the power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, and the proceedings would be open to the public.

(d) Considering the nature of the charges, Government feel that it would be desirable to have the charges investigated initially through a quasi-judicial procedure. This would be more expeditious than judicial proceedings, and if the finding is adverse, Government may take appropriate action forthwith. Moreover, Government would be free to launch criminal prosecution if facts justify this course of action after the completion of the enquiry proceedings.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** In view of the statement in a Government Press Note that this particular officer was appointed as First Member of the Board of Revenue, Madras at a time when there were very serious allegations against him and in view also of the fact that during the last session, when a question was asked about this officer, the Minister stoutly defended him and stated that there was no reason for suspension at all, and in view of the fact that there is a general feeling in the country that there is softness on the part of the Government .....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What is the question?

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** In view of all these facts, will Government reconsider its position regarding prosecution and order immediate prosecution because that alone would satisfy public demand.

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** That has already been answered. There will be an enquiry under the Public Servants' Enquiry Act and I think it will satisfy the demand of the situation and when the enquiry is completed, there will be complete ground for taking further action. There need be no anxiety on the part of any member of this House that very proper and very strict steps which may be called for will not be taken.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether the terms of enquiry include the vast amount of wealth that has been acquired by this officer?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What I would ask hon. Members to bear in mind is this. The matter is under enquiry. Let us not therefore assume various things which may mean prejudging the issue. Hon. members are aware of what the Minister has said. Therefore it is not proper for the Minister to give any information when the enquiry is under consideration.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know whether the Public Service Commission is there for the enquiry?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** An independent Judge.

**Shri Datar:** A retired High Court Judge is being appointed.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** There is a report that the retired Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court will be in charge of the enquiry.

**Shri Datar:** No appointment as such has been made but we are finding out who would be available and Sir Trevor Harries is one of them.

**Dr. Katju:** I would ask Members of this House just to wait for another ten days because some preliminary steps are under consideration and I hope I will be able to make a statement by the end of this month setting out everything.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** May I know the legal position? Now that the said officer has approached the Madras High Court, I want to know if his application before the Madras High Court has to any extent, affected the proceedings that are being contemplated?

**Dr. Katju:** That is a different matter altogether.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** May I know why when the charges are of a criminal nature, proceedings are not sent to the court and when it is investigated outside the court, the accused should be given an opportunity of defending himself.

**Dr. Katju:** The enquiry contemplated by the Public Servants' Enquiry Act is more or less a judicial enquiry conducted in very free atmosphere and I think both the prosecution and the accused will have every opportunity of putting their cases before the enquiring officer. That will be a very satisfactory feature. So many allegations and counter-allegations are made and this officer who has got very great experience will be able to tell us how the matter stands.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Would he be liable to further prosecution?

**Dr. Katju:** Yes.

**Shrimati A. Kale:** May I know what steps Government is going to take to dispossess this gentleman of the money he has illegally made?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Hon. Members are assuming an advanced investigation.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

\*74. **Shri Charak:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have set up any Committee on education;

(b) if so, who are the members of the Committee;