

Short Notice Question and Answer**IMMOVABLE EVACUEE PROPERTY**

S.N.Q. No. 13. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to refer to the statement laid on the Table of the House on the 7th May, 1954, regarding immovable evacuee property and state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend the interim compensation scheme to other categories;

(b) if so, what are these categories;

(c) when this scheme will become operative;

(d) when the legislation for the implementation of the compensation scheme is likely to be introduced:

(e) whether any attempt has been made by Government to ascertain from Pakistan the implications of their proposed quasi-permanent allotment of urban immovable property; and

(f) what is the total compensation proposed to be paid to the displaced persons from (i) the pool of evacuee property; and (ii) cash or buildings and houses contributed by Government?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (c). As I mentioned in my statement on the 7th May, Government have decided to extend the interim compensation scheme to other categories of D. Ps. The details of the categories which will be immediately covered are being worked out. For the general information of the House, I may, however, mention that applications are likely to be invited soon from persons living in evacuee houses in small towns all over India, from the occupants of Government-built properties in the various States other than the townships already included in the priority categories. Certain categories of persons in distressed condition may also be included. Announcement inviting applications will be issued from time to time. Applications have already been taken from 5,000

members of Housing Co-operative Societies. Agricultural lands have already been allotted in some cases and in other cases are in the process of allotment, in Hyderabad, U.P., Bhopal, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In the case of Punjab and Pepsu instructions have been issued for the allotment of lands retrieved as a result of the separation of the mixed agricultural lands to displaced persons of both Punjabi and Non-Punjabi origin.

(d) It is proposed to introduce the legislation today.

(e) No formal communication has been addressed.

(f) The estimated amounts are:—

(i) Rs. 100 crores.

(ii) Rs. 85 crores.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the approximate number of persons who will be benefited by the interim compensation scheme which is going to be introduced today?

Mr. Speaker: He is going to introduce a Bill today.

Shri A. P. Jain: I am going to introduce a Bill today, but it has nothing to do with the interim compensation scheme.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how the Government is going to deal with the difference between the value of the property left by the Hindus in West Pakistan and by the Muslims in East Punjab; whether the difference between the property there and here will be added to the pool which will go to the benefit of the evacuees?

Shri A. P. Jain: Government have made whatever contribution they had to make in its final form. No further contribution will be made by the Government and the difference will be made up only when we receive anything from Pakistan on account of the difference between the values of the property in the two countries.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether any communication has been sent to the Pakistan Government, and if so, whether any reply has been received from them?

Shri A. P. Jain: Yes. An intimation has been sent to the Pakistan Government with regard to the step that we propose to take. Of course, it is too early to expect any reply.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the Government has seen reports in this morning's papers that a Pakistan spokesman has said that there remains no basis for any settlement with India and the Government of India has conveyed to them that it proposes to take over the property?

Shri A. P. Jain: Yes, I have seen the report.

Sardar Hukam Singh: When the information of this decision of the Government to take over was sent to Pakistan, was there no enquiry made as to the implications of that decision to take over to grant quasi-permanent rights to their refugees?

Shri A. P. Jain: The question is rather a queer one because we cannot understand what is going on in the mind of Pakistan and what Pakistan will do or will not do. So far as quasi-permanent allotment is concerned, the hon. Member, I hope, has seen the statement of my counterpart in Pakistan. Mr. Shuaib Querishi said that the details of the quasi-permanency will be worked out, which actually meant that they have not worked out the details yet and naturally they could not convey anything to us.

Shri Joachim Alva: Has the Government come to a final decision in the matter of acquiring evacuee property? May I know whether Government proposes to issue a White Paper giving a history of the number of meetings held both in Karachi and in Delhi, and whether they propose to hold still further meetings either there or this side?

Shri A. P. Jain: Times without number statements have been made in the course of debates and otherwise in this House. Recently I placed on the Table of this House a copy of the statement which is the subject-matter of question today. In those statements and debates we have outlined the history of negotiations. I do not know whether any useful purpose will be served by bringing out a White Paper. Of course, Government have taken the final decision and a Bill on the basis of that final decision is being introduced in the House today.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether there is any truth in the reports in the Press that Government is going to hold a conference of the State Rehabilitation Ministers in Gulmarg and has a proposal to place before them that the properties worth more than Rs. 10,000 be sold in auction to the highest bidder?

Shri A. P. Jain: Of course, a conference of the Rehabilitation Ministers of the States in India is going to be held in Gulmarg next month, but the agenda is under preparation. There is no truth in the statement that all properties worth more than Rs. 10,000 or of any other value are going to be sold. There is no proposal of that kind. Of course, the question is going to be considered in all its aspects.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Am I to take it that all negotiations ..

Mr. Speaker: I am proceeding to the next business now.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

BORDER CHECK-POSTS

*2496. **Shri Dhusiya:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) how many border check-posts there are on the Indo-Tibetan border; and

(b) the number of land-customs posts among these?