

Shri L. N. Mishra: Are Government aware of the fact that the tea industry of Assam has of late faced serious labour trouble for want of food supplies to labour at controlled prices?

Shri Karmarkar: Apart from the particular cause of the difficulty, Government appreciate the fact that the tea industry as a whole was in some difficulties and, therefore, they have sent out two officials to go into this matter, and we are expecting their report shortly.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know the amount of foreign exchange earned by the export of tea in 1951 and in the first part of 1952?

Shri Karmarkar: Tea exports during 1950 and 1951 were as follows: in 1950, £453 million; in 1951, £443 million.

Shri Bhagwat Jha: May I know if it is a fact that the Indian tea industry has already lost markets in Australia and New Zealand?

Shri Karmarkar: That is not a fact.

Shri Bhagwat Jha: That is a fact.

Shri Venkataraman: May I ask whether these countries are not members of the International Tea Agreement and are therefore free to extend their acreage while India is under a restriction in the matter of extending the acreage under tea?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I think the hon. Member himself knows, being a member of the Indian Tea Control Committee, that that is the position.

Shri Venkataraman: I am just leading to another question. May I ask, whether, in view of increased competition from East Africa and other countries, the Government of India have any idea of revising the International Agreement?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a matter which is constantly engaging the attention of Government as to how far we benefit by being participants in this International Agreement. There are various facets of this problem, and they are all being studied all the time.

Shri Venkataraman: Is it not a fact that there is a large acreage which is capable of being brought under tea cultivation in this country, and that because of this Agreement we are unable to expand our production?

Shri Karmarkar: As a matter of fact, this was the subject matter of a detailed question and answer, and I remember to have said that under the International Agreement it is possible for India to increase the acreage to a smaller extent than what the hon. Member assumes, and it is open for the cultivator to increase it to that extent.

Shri Venkataraman: Is it not a fact that the increase in acreage is only 1 per cent. per annum?

Mr. Speaker: I think we are entering into an argument and cross-examination.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether there are blending factories in India; if so, are they owned and managed by Indians themselves?

Shri Karmarkar: A number of them are Indian.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Are they owned and managed by Indians?

Shri Karmarkar: Some of them are.

MIGRATION FROM EAST PAKISTAN

*1440. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the answer given to a supplementary to my starred question No. 1 on the 19th May, 1952 and state:

(a) the number of migrants from East Pakistan who are still in India;

(b) whether their return to East Pakistan is still continuing; and

(c) whether the permit system will affect their return to East Pakistan?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) It is difficult to give accurate figures. A census taken by the West Bengal Government in December 1950 disclosed that there were 23,01,514 displaced persons from East Bengal who had come to West Bengal.

From the 1st January 1951 to the 29th May 1952, traffic continued in both directions. The only record is of railway traffic, which includes all kinds of travellers—migrants, businessmen, smugglers, etc. Figures for this period are:

Hindus from East Bengal
to West Bengal ... 21,95,888

Hindus from West Bengal
to East Bengal ... 24,87,563

Thus, according to these figures there was a net influx of 2,91,675 Hindus

into East Bengal from West Bengal from 1st January 1951 to 29th May 1952. If this figure is deducted from the census figure of December, 1950, the number of displaced persons from East Bengal who had come to West Bengal would be 20,09,839.

These figures do not include border traffic. It should also be remembered that it is not always easy to distinguish Bengali Hindus from Bengali Muslims as they often look alike and dress alike and speak the same language.

The figures of displaced persons from East Bengal for other States, as supplied by those States are as follows:—

Assam	...	2,74,627
Tripura	...	2,22,950
Bihar	...	43,365

Thus the total number of displaced persons from East Pakistan in West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Bihar on the 29th May 1952, is estimated to be a little over 25,50,000.

(b) Traffic in both directions, i.e., from East Pakistan to West Bengal and West Bengal to East Pakistan, is still continuing. There has recently been a tendency for larger number of persons in distress to come to West Bengal and Assam from East Pakistan, presumably because economic conditions have deteriorated there.

(c) Facilities to be given under the Passport system are still under discussion with Pakistan. The Government of India have every intention of applying passport facilities in such a way as to ensure that rights given to migrants under the Delhi Pact of April, 1950, are not affected. They understand that that is also the intention of the Government of Pakistan.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In connection with reply to part (c) of the question, may I know the degree of progress achieved in the negotiations between India and Pakistan regarding the introduction of passport system?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is difficult to measure the degree but speaking very roughly, 90 per cent.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether any agreement has been arrived at about the exact date from which this passport system of travel between India and Pakistan will be introduced?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No. But probably some time in September.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the passport regulations

between the two countries would be similar?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, naturally if they are the result of an agreement. There will be a great deal of similarity.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, if there has been an increase in the recent influx of refugees from East Pakistan to West Bengal?

Mr. Speaker: He refers to the recent influx.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: These figures are upto the end of May. I do not know about the balance. But there has been a certain influx and if I may say so, rather a new type of refugee i.e., a person in extreme distress. In fact quite a large number of beggars have come and if I may say so, beggars of both varieties—Hindu beggars, Muslim beggars—and I understand that in Calcutta for instance at Sealdah Station there are considerable numbers of people adding and it is a problem for us to look after them and try to help them at the present moment.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Will the Prime Minister tell the House if it is a fact that people are going back to East Bengal or East Pakistan for the purpose of disposing of their assets and properties just to come back to India because of the introduction of the passport system?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think, as far as I can make out, that this question of passport system has affected this migration this way or that way very much. Mostly economic factors are affecting it.

Shri A. C. Guha: Have the Government made any enquiry about the causes for this new increase in the migration from East Bengal?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There has been no increase in that sense. As a matter of fact—I have not got the figures for the last two weeks with me—it will be seen that in the balance more people were going to East Bengal. It is true that people were coming out in distress to East Bengal also. The traffic was in both directions and as I said there are so many causes but the immediate new cause appears to be deterioration in the economic conditions of East Bengal.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it simply due to the deterioration of economic conditions or there are some other conditions also e.g., social and political?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. member knows that those forces which he refers to, have always been at work there.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Has the attention of the Prime Minister been drawn to the newspaper reports that there is a large number of refugees at the Sealdah Station and I have personally visited that spot?

Mr. Speaker: He has just stated that there was a large number of refugees.

Shri K. K. Basu: In view of the answer given by the Hon. the Prime Minister that the economic conditions in Pakistan are worse, and the people are coming in, are we to accept that the economic condition here is still worse than what it is in Pakistan; in view of large influx into Pakistan from India?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. This is a sort of an argument.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Assessing the number of refugees in India, has the Government of India taken into account the disparity between the Pakistan census figures and the opening figures of Pakistan population when Pakistan was created according to which it will be roughly a difference between 92 lakhs and 1 crore and 30 lakhs?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is difficult to draw firm conclusions. Those figures were I believe brought to my notice at one time but they have to be examined rather thoroughly before we can draw conclusions from them.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has Government received any report either from its own agencies in East Pakistan or from other sources regarding the apprehension, if any, in the minds of the minority communities in East Pakistan in view of the introduction of the permit system?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There has always been an apprehension in the minds of the minority communities there because of various causes. The hon. member I suppose wants to know if there is any additional apprehension. Well, it is true that the proposal to introduce the passport system was not welcomed in fact by minorities either in East Bengal or in West Bengal—on both sides. But I do not think this has been a very prominent factor in the recent developments and as a matter of fact such agreements as have been arrived at thus far in regard to the passport system ensure fairly easy travel between East and West Bengal.

Mr. Speaker: We now go to the next question.

KARACHI CONFERENCE re INTRODUCTION OF PASSPORTS

*1441. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any definite results have been achieved in the recent Karachi Conference regarding the introduction of passports between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to have a second conference on the subject at Delhi or at any other place; and

(c) what have been the points on which there have not been any agreement?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Agreement was reached on several details of the proposed system and with regard to some of the facilities to be given.

(b) No. Outstanding points are being discussed between the two Governments.

(c) As the discussions are still continuing, Government regret that they are not in a position to disclose details.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if there has been any suggestion with respect to any different varieties of passports?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: First of all everyone of course who has an international passport can use it. But apart from that it is proposed to have rather simpler passports—not so expensive and not so complicated. These passports will be alike. They may be for single journeys or multiple journeys or there may be some on which no visas are required.

Shri A. C. Guha: Has there been any suggestion that different varieties of passports will be applicable to different categories of the population of the two States?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There will not be varieties of passports. But there will be different varieties of entries in the passports. That is to say in the eastern zone, Eastern Pakistan on the one side and West Bengal, Assam and Tripura on the other side. There will be far greater facility of traffic. It is proposed to give certain additional facilities first of all to people living on either side of the border and secondly to people who have relatives, who own property there—businessmen etc.—some categories like that.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the Government have considered the suggestion that the passport system may not be introduced just before the Pujā celebrations?