

action against importers who do not take 15 per cent. of the spare parts, may I know what exact action is taken and in how many cases have the licences been cancelled?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I require notice.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: We understood that the Government were encouraging the manufacture of spare parts in India. Will not this compulsion that a certain percentage of the foreign spare parts must be taken discourage the manufacture of spare parts in this country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a question of timing. If there are a large number of tractors in this country, even this 15 per cent. of the spare parts may not cover their needs. So, the local manufacturers of spare parts are encouraged. But so as to provide the minimum quantity necessary for keeping the tractors going, Government insist on 15 per cent. of the spare parts being imported by tractor importers.

HINDUS IN EAST BENGAL

*2060. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any reports in recent weeks of any discriminatory and unfair treatment towards the Hindus of East Bengal; and

(b) if so, (i) in what particular areas (ii) of what form and nature, and (iii) the action taken by the Government of India in the matter?

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

(b) (i) Chiefly from the Districts of Khulna, Bakarganj, Faridpur and Sylhet, where economic conditions are said to be deteriorating.

(ii) (1) There are reports of discrimination in the grant of relief to distressed Hindus from Government relief funds.

(2) There have been reports that in Sylhet District, non-Muslim tea labourers are not being enrolled in the draft electoral rolls.

(3) Pressure is brought to bear upon employers not to employ non-Muslims in business concerns.

Apart from this, the old complaints of discriminatory measures continue, more specially in regard to requisitioning of houses.

(iii) Specific instances of discrimination and unfair treatment are taken up with the Government of Pakistan.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is the Government aware that very recently some circular has been issued to the Ansars indirectly to work against the Hindus, particularly in view of the coming elections?

Shri Satish Chandra: I am not aware of any such circular having been issued to the Ansars, but it is a fact that there has been some harassment of the Hindu minority at the hands of these Ansars.

Shri A. C. Guha: The Minister has stated that even in the distribution of relief in distressed areas there has been discrimination against the Hindus. May I know if the Government of India has drawn the attention of the Pakistan Government specially to this state of affairs?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The hon. Member is aware that we are continually in touch with the Pakistan Government through our High Commissioner and our Ministers. Normally, it is rather difficult officially to take any action in regard to the internal working in the other State, but the Ministers I believe do draw attention to these facts from time to time.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the Government has drawn the attention of the International Red Cross Society or its Indian Branch to render relief to the distressed Hindus there?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. I do not think it would be proper at all to ask an international relief society to give relief outside our own territory. It is not normally done.

Shri A. C. Guha: The international Red Cross Society has been rendering relief to the distressed people all over the world. So the Indian Red Cross Society may take up the matter with the International Red Cross Society.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Red Cross, both Indian and International, are not an official body. They may privately help and they have given a great deal of help.

Dr. N. B. Khare rose—

Mr. Speaker: The question-hour is over.