

HINDUS DRIVEN OUT FROM PATGRAM,
EAST BENGAL

*207. **Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on or about the 12th and 13th of March, 1952, peaceful Hindu residents of Patgram P. S. in East Bengal were driven out of their homes to make room for Muslim evacuees?

(b) What is the total number of Hindu evacuees who have come over to Cooch-Behar and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal after the incident mentioned above?

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

(b) According to the latest information, about 300 Hindu families have migrated from Patgram in Rangpur District (East Bengal) to Jalpaiguri and Cooch-Behar Districts of West Bengal, since the date of the incident.

Shri Barman: Is it a fact that while these Hindus were being driven out of their homes, there were present Ansars and also police of the Pakistan Government?

Shri Satish Chandra: These incidents occurred two months ago. The matter is under investigation by the Pakistan Government. I do not think I can give more information at present.

Shri Barman: Can the Government give us any information as to what steps have been taken to rehabilitate these people driven out of their homes? Or, has anything been done to induce the Pakistan Government to do something so that these people may return to their original homes? If so, what is the outcome of that?

Shri Satish Chandra: The Deputy Commissioner of Cooch-Behar and the Superintendent of Police, Jalpaiguri met the District Magistrate of Rangpur on 25th March, 1952 to discuss this incident. It was agreed at this conference that both sides should make all possible efforts to restore confidence in the minds of the minorities. Lists of properties, etc., have been prepared and the people have been assured that if they wanted to return to their respective homes, their properties will be restored to them.

Shri Barman: How many have actually returned? Have the Government made any arrangement for the rehabilitation of those who have not returned?

Shri Satish Chandra: People who have been once driven out of their

homes, refuse to go back. That is true. But, they are watching the situation from the border. They are still on the border.

Shri Barman: What about the rehabilitation of those who have not returned.

Shri Satish Chandra: The question may be addressed to the Ministry of Rehabilitation.

Mr. Speaker: The Question hour is over.

Mr. Speaker: There is a short notice question in the name of Shri K. Subrahmanyam.

Shri N. R. Naidu: May I be permitted to put the question, Sir, in the place of Mr. Subrahmanyam, who is absent?

Mr. Speaker: If Mr. Subrahmanyam is absent, we shall now proceed to deal with the further business before the House.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

OIL FROM IRAN

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

(a) whether India has tried to have any deal with Iran to get crude oil; and

(b) if so, with what success?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). In the absence of oil tankers, port installations, storage and distributing facilities the Government of India have not found it possible to arrange for the purchase of crude oil from Iran.

COLLIERY LABOUR PROVIDENT FUND

*198. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual collection of the Colliery Labour Provident Fund;

(b) the total amount now in the Fund;

(c) how many persons are contributing to it; and

(d) the number of dead accounts?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) The average annual collection of the Fund comes to Rs. 56 lakhs.