

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-Bihar 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-Bihar 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-Bihar 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.

(b) The total asset of the Fund as on the 15th March, 1952, is Rs. 2,08,71,185.

(c) 3,97,942.

(d) 77,312.

#### HIRING OF LAND IN THE DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE

\*205. **Shri V. G. Deshpande:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state how many acres of land in the Diplomatic Enclave were hired for the Congress Session and from what dates?

(b) What were the hire charges for this land?

(c) Have they been paid by the Congress Committee, if not, why not?

(d) Was any work in connection with the Congress Session got done through the agency of the Central Public Works Department?

(e) If so, what was the value of it and has the money been paid?

(f) Why did not Government charge such expenditure from the Congress Committee in advance as it is done in the case of services rendered to the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

(g) If the money was not charged in advance from the Congress Committee, what action has been taken against such officers who failed in their duty?

(h) What steps have been taken to recover this long-standing amount from the Congress Committee?

(i) Have Government served the Congress Committee with any legal notice and, if not, why not?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) 61 acres of land were leased to the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee in connection with the 57th session of the Indian National Congress, from 20th September to 20th October, 1951. In addition to the above 61 acres, an additional area of 5 acres was also utilised by the Committee for Volunteers' Camp and cycle stand. About 2½ acres of land for Volunteers Camp was occupied from 13th October 1951 to 20th October 1951, and the remaining 2½ acres for cycle stand from 17th to 20th October 1951.

(b) The hire charges payable for these lands were Rs. 5,164/8/-.

(c) Yes.

(d) Besides renting of the land, certain other services, such as supply of pipes, etc. on hire were also rendered by this C.P.W.D.

(e) The amount payable in respect of services rendered by the Central Public Works Department works out to Rs. 963/12/-, and the amount has been paid by the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee.

(f) As the hire charges for the land etc. could not be worked out before the land etc. was placed at the disposal of the Committee, it was not possible to ask the Committee to deposit the entire amount in advance.

(g) to (i) Do not arise, as the full amount (Rs. 6,128/4/-) has been paid in by the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

\*206. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the growing unemployment in textile industries from February 1952?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) Due to the general slump, the demand for cotton textiles has suffered a setback with the result that stocks of cloth have been accumulating with mills. One mill has closed down totally and seven partially on account of accumulation of stocks as on the 10th May 1952 this has affected 5,058 workers. In addition, a certain number of silk and woollen mills have also closed down, but complete figures in regard to these are not available.

(b) My colleague, the Minister for Commerce and Industry explained in answer to starred question No. 4 on the 19th May 1952 that the Government of India had taken the following steps to help mills to clear their accumulated stocks:—

(1) Mills have been allowed to sell their entire production of fine and superfine cloth and 80 per cent. of their production of coarse and medium cloth in April and May, 1952, to dealers of their own choice.

(2) Out of the balance any quantity not paid for and lifted by the State nominees within the stipulated time may also be sold by mills to dealers of their own choice.

(3) Mills have been permitted to sell all counts of cotton yarn, except 2