

(b) Immediate steps were taken to assert the Indian Government's title to the area and a prohibition check-post and a barrier across the road were put up. A small body of Malabar Special Police was also posted.

(c) The road is in our possession.

(d) and (e). There can be no dispute about this area, as the road is part of Indian territory.

(f) No, Sir.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know why the Police force is still stationed at that place if the road is in our possession?

Mr. Speaker: To maintain the possession. It is obvious.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I request you to take up question No. 31 along with question No. 16?

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. Minister agreeable?

Shri A. P. Jain: I have no objection.

Mr. Speaker: Then he can answer both.

Shri A. P. Jain: Yes, I shall answer both.

DISPLACED PERSONS FROM EAST BENGAL

*16. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of displaced persons who arrived in India from East Bengal during the current year;

(b) their numbers according to occupational classifications;

(c) the number taken to camps;

(d) the number provided with work; and

(e) the number living on doles?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Approximately 2,78,000 in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Tripura and Assam.

(b) Not available.

(c) Approximately 89,000.

(d) Approximately 1,500.

(e) Approximately 76,000.

REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

*31. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state what were the decisions taken in the Conference of representatives of the Governments of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and Tripura at Calcutta in September,

1952 about the rehabilitation of displaced persons from East Bengal who have come in the new influx?

(b) How many displaced persons have been rehabilitated so far in Bihar and Orissa after and before September, 1952?

(c) How many amongst these taken in are unattached persons?

(d) How much money has been spent for the rehabilitation work in Bihar and Orissa up-to-date?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The decisions taken at the Conference are enumerated in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given in the Council of States to parts (c) and (d) of Starred Question No. 43 by Shri Bimal Comar Ghose on 28th July 1952.

(c) There are no unattached persons in Orissa. In Bihar there are 654 unattached persons in Gaya Camp.

(d) Bihar—Rs. 1,03,51,000 upto May 1952.

Orissa—Rs. 1,03,20,000 upto August 1952.

STATEMENT

1. Displaced persons arriving with the new influx are not to be admitted in 'Relief Camps'. They will be kept in 'Transit Camps' where their stay will be for a limited period, during which efforts will be made to introduce some kind of labour for all able-bodied displaced persons.

2. In transit camps, the antecedents and occupation of displaced persons will be ascertained to achieve satisfactory rehabilitation.

3. From transit camps displaced persons will be dispersed as soon as possible, at any rate, within the maximum period laid down for the purpose. The dispersal should be either to rehabilitation or work sites where the able-bodied displaced persons will be provided with work against wages. On rehabilitation sites the displaced persons will be employed on reclamation of land, construction of roads, drains, houses etc. Work sites will be in the nature of either test works or irrigation or other works undertaken by the State Governments.

4. To relieve congestion in West Bengal it was decided to explore the possibilities of sending displaced persons from that State to Bihar, Orissa and Andamans. The representatives of Bihar and Orissa undertook to find

out how much land could be immediately offered for rehabilitation of displaced persons and promised to conduct surveys to assess how many displaced persons could be resettled in their respective States in course of time.

5. Past experience should be utilized to modify and improve upon the rehabilitation schemes and a system of judicious selection adopted so as to reduce the chances of desertions to minimum.

6. A displaced person once sponsored for resettlement to some State and sent out of West Bengal should cease to be considered a responsibility of the West Bengal Government. If he returned to West Bengal subsequently as a deserter, the Government of India would not incur any expenditure on him and if West Bengal Government gave him any assistance that would be done by them from their own resources and entirely on their own responsibility.

7. A proposal was made to Orissa and Bihar to organize suitable Homes for 3,000 to 4,000 displaced persons of the permanent liability category who would be transferred from West Bengal. The representative of Orissa promised to communicate a decision after consulting the Chief Minister of that State. In case it was decided to organise such Homes in Orissa, the question of sending some good social workers along with the groups of migrants sponsored for the Homes will be considered.

8. It was agreed that as far as possible opportunities should be found for the rehabilitation of displaced persons in the new schemes of development including the Community Projects.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know, Sir, whether any enquiries have been made about the reasons for this new influx, and if so, what are the reasons?

Shri A. P. Jain: From such enquiries as have been made, the reasons are economic distress in East Bengal, a certain amount of insecurity which has always existed, and the introduction of passport which gave an impression that once the passport is clamped, people may not be allowed to go to India.

Shri B. K. Das: Is it a fact that a large number of persons are still trying to come, to overcome the passport difficulties?

Shri A. P. Jain: In fact, quite a liberal relaxation of the passport rules was made during the first fortnight of its coming into force, and persons who

wanted to migrate to India were allowed to come in even though they had no passports.

Shri B. K. Das: Is it a fact that there was harassment and molestation and also loss of property to those persons who were crossing the border, by the Pakistan soldiers?

Shri A. P. Jain: There was some reference, but the allegations could not be verified.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether the scheme that was decided on, that the refugees when they reach India will be taken direct to their place of rehabilitation, has been successful?

Shri A. P. Jain: In the beginning, it was quite successful, but later on, when the rush increased, we found it impossible to take all the new entrants to places of rehabilitation and to places of work, and had to take some of them to relief camps, but we propose to shift these persons to rehabilitation centres and work centres as soon as possible.

Shri B. K. Das: What is the number still left in Sealdah and Bongaon stations?

Shri A. P. Jain: So far as my information goes, Sealdah is cleared, and Bongaon may also have been cleared by now.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how many new work centres have been opened to engage the fresh influx of refugees from East Pakistan, since May last?

Shri A. P. Jain: The list is quite large, and if the hon. Member so desires, I can supply him with a complete list.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how many persons have been sent to Mayurakshi, Hiraakud and Damodar Valley, and whether Government has any intention to engage some of the displaced persons in the Community projects?

Shri A. P. Jain: So far as my information goes, no refugees coming in the new influx have been sent either to Hiraakud or to Damodar Valley. It is, of course, the desire of the Government to integrate the rehabilitation schemes with the Community projects, but to what extent these refugees will be absorbed in that will depend on practical working.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I supplement that answer? It is highly unlikely that the Community schemes will absorb these,

In fact, it is almost impossible, except in so far as some technical people may be at all useful, because they are very specialised schemes where a long course of instruction is necessary. You cannot put on any new man to this thing, simply to give him relief. You have to give him some other work.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I meant if the displaced persons may be accommodated in these projects—and it was discussed in the Calcutta conference. May I know, Sir, whether in the Calcutta conference it was settled that unattached persons will be accommodated in Orissa and Bihar? If so, is it being implemented?

Shri A. P. Jain: Actually, there was a discussion on a number of matters, and one of the questions which was discussed in the conference was whether we could send some of those refugees who were treated as permanent liabilities, to those States. In fact, after this new influx, we have transferred a few thousand persons to Bihar and Orissa, but they do not include these permanent liabilities.

Shri A. C. Guha: In reply to one of the supplementaries, the hon. Minister has stated that allegations of molestations could not be verified. May I know what attempt was made to verify those allegations, and whether the Government is satisfied that there is no basis behind those allegations?

Shri A. P. Jain: There were two parts to that question—one harassment, and another, molestation. We have some reports that some persons wanted to come over to India, and they were not allowed. In fact, the hon. Member would be aware that the Minorities Minister has toured East Bengal, and while I am not fully aware of what conclusions he has reached, yet to the extent that I know, there has not been any verification of those allegations of harassment.

Shri A. C. Guha: My point was: the hon. Minister has given us an impression that those allegations were more or less baseless. So, is Government prepared to say that there is no truth in those allegations, or that those were quite without any foundation?

Mr. Speaker: I think the words he used were "could not be verified". They had not the necessary facilities to get them verified or they have not been verified yet.

Shri A. C. Guha: Government must have received those allegations and must have also formed some opinion on those. Are the Government

satisfied that those allegations were, to some extent, basically correct or they were not basically correct?

Shri A. P. Jain: In fact, we received some telegrams saying that so many persons who wanted to come were held up, and were not being allowed to come to India. But from the whole process of their coming and the freedom with which they were coming, we could conclude that perhaps people were not being held up. In fact, two contradictory statements have been made by them in Bengal: first, that Pakistan wants to squeeze out the minorities, and secondly, that they want to hold them back altogether.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, how many of the displaced persons who had been rehabilitated or who are said to have been rehabilitated in Bihar and Orissa, before September, 1952, have come back or have 'deserted', so to say?

Shri A. P. Jain: I cannot give separate figures of persons who were rehabilitated or supposed to have been rehabilitated and have returned to West Bengal, but the number of persons who have deserted either the camps or rehabilitation centres from Orissa was about 16,000 and from Bihar about eight or nine thousand.

Dr. N. B. Khare rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have already given 10 minutes to this question. I am not allowing any further supplementaries.

Dr. N. B. Khare: I rose twice or thrice before, but I was not called.

Mr. Speaker: There are others who have risen ten times, but have not been called.

I am going to the next question now.

AID UNDER CARE PROGRAMME

*17. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the extent of the Aid India received under CARE programmes?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): The value of the relief packages brought into India by the CARE Inc. from 6th March 1950 to 30th September 1952 is Rs. 16,66,805.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: To what agencies was this distributed?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: To different organisations.