

INFLUX OF EAST PAKISTAN DISPLACED PERSONS

***1468. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to reduce the influx of East Pakistan Displaced Persons?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): The question of influx of Hindus from East Bengal was discussed by the Ministers of Minority Affairs of India and Pakistan when they met in New Delhi in July last year. Since then the matter has been under correspondence between them and it is likely to be discussed by them when they meet again shortly.

This problem was also discussed by the Rehabilitation Minister of the Government of India with the Pakistan Minister for Interior during the latter's visit to India in January, 1955, and they have agreed to visit East Bengal shortly to study the position.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May we know if there is any truth in the statement that has appeared that the Rehabilitation Minister's tour of the two countries is not certain and there is no specific date fixed?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I am afraid we have no information on the point to which the hon. Member refers.

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): Sir, I did not catch the question.

Mr. Speaker: Whether any date has been fixed for the intended tour by the Rehabilitation Minister of India and the Minister of Interior of Pakistan?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have been in correspondence with Major-General Iskander Mirza. A number of letters have passed between us, but no definite date has been fixed as yet. Major-General Mirza wrote to me only about a week or ten days ago that he was heavily preoccupied with many other important engagements. I

am pursuing the matter again with him in a day or two.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Has Government any information from our own Deputy High Commissioner, Dacca, as to the reason for this huge influx which has been started and is continuing for the last eight months?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Yes, Sir. There is a feeling of general insecurity and a worsening of the economic condition which are forcing these unfortunate people to come over here.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What steps has Government taken to do anything in this matter, especially if it is a question of economic distress?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): This refers to economic distress in another country, the hon. Member will remember. It is not in our own country. It is very difficult for us to take steps to improve the economic condition in another country.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: But, we have certain trade relations with them. I would like to know, since this also affects our economy, what steps our Government has taken or propose to take in the matter?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This matter is obviously of the utmost importance and seriousness, as the hon. Member says, affecting our country, and we are all very much concerned about it. I do not know whether I can help by suggesting any particular method of dealing with this situation. Mostly it appears that what are called Scheduled Castes or Namasudras are coming over in considerable numbers. Why they should be coming over now in such large numbers is difficult for us to say. There is no doubt that economic conditions are an important element. Deteriorating economic conditions, feeling of insecurity and uncertainty for the future and other causes would have been operating there for these last few years. In dealing with another country there are

certain limitations which we have inevitably to face. We are talking with them, we are discussing the matter with them and we are pressing upon them. All these, apart from the proposed visit and getting replies from them, will generally lead to a bettering of the situation. For the moment I do not know what more I can say.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of the fact that Major-General Iskander Mirza is a very busy person nowadays and is likely to be so in the coming weeks, may I know whether the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation is thinking of any other way to approach the Government of Pakistan for having this matter solved?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I do not apprehend this difficulty. I think we will be able to go to East Pakistan in the near future. Major-General Iskander Mirza has assured me that he is as anxious as I am to go to East Pakistan and try to find a solution of this increased migration.

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Ram Subhag Singh... He does not seem to be keen on putting the question. I am going to the next question.

COAL SEAM IN ORISSA

***1470. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 426 on the 18th November, 1952 and state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government have since granted prospecting licence and mining lease over the area adjacent to the Talcher Colliery;

(b) if so, the stage at which the work of prospecting stands; and

(c) by what period coal is likely to be extracted from these mines?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) The prospecting licence and mining lease applied for have not yet been granted. The State Gov-

ernment have recently suggested certain modifications in the areas for which applications were made to them and these revised proposals made by the State Government are now under consideration.

(b) and (c). Do not arise at present.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

***1471. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 26 on the 15th November, 1954 and state:

(a) the names of other States who have been given aid for rural electrification; and

(b) the amount of aid given to each State?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 45.]

Shri Jhulan Sinha: Is the Government in a position to enlighten us as to the progress made in the rural electrification scheme in any of the States?

Shri Hathi: If the Member wants progress for any particular States, on notice I will be able to supply that information.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if this electrification scheme, as far as it refers to West Bengal, has been given to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation also?

Shri Hathi: Generally it is for the State Government to approach the Central Government for this.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know, before any assistance is given to the States for the rural electrification, whether the Government put up any limit within which this electric energy should be charged for?

Shri Hathi: No; there is no limit, because the tariff is decided by the States themselves.