

protection so that the people may not be adversely affected?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government are not prepared to grant the assumption behind the question.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am going to the next question.

DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS

*1647. **Shri K. R. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government suffered a loss of over Rs. 11 lakhs due to the issue of rations free and on unauthorised ration cards in the displaced persons camps;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against the officers responsible for this loss to Government;

(c) the names of the commandants of the camps; and

(d) the duration and strength of all the camps?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) Yes; there was a loss of over Rs. 11 lakhs in respect of rations issued on unauthorised ration cards at Relief Camp Kurukshetra.

(b) It was not practicable to prevent the issue of unauthorised ration cards in Kurukshetra which had at the time a population of about three lakhs and particularly when the population was constantly changing by influx of new refugees from Pakistan and efflux of some of the inmates of Kurukshetra Camp to other places. The main function of Government at the time was to provide food, shelters and medical treatment to the displaced persons, who after having lost all they possessed were completely unhinged. It was difficult in the earlier stages to observe the normal checks to safeguard against losses on account of unauthorised drawal

of rations. Consequently responsibility could not be fixed against individual officers. Subsequently, however, specific instructions were issued by the Ministry to the State Governments to prevent further losses of this kind.

(c) Lt. Col. N. D. Puri.

(d) From September 1947 to April 1950, the population of Kurukshetra Camp ranged between two to three lakhs.

RETRENCHMENT IN STATIONERY OFFICE CALCUTTA

*1648. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of junior clerks of the Government Stationery Office in Calcutta have been served with retrenchment notices on the 1st March, 1954;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of these clerks have put in continuous service since 1942 and have been granted quasi-permanent status; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken by Government in response to the representation made in this behalf by the Employees Association of this Stationery Office?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is it not a fact that a number of these employees had put in nearly 12 years of work and they had acquired quasi-permanent status and had been given the assurance that they would have more or less the same privileges as the permanent incumbents?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There are three parts in the question. Some of them have become quasi-permanent. Some of them have put in about 11