

more is needed the Indian community in Burma will find as much as Rs 7,500

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if this memorial will be financed entirely by our own Government?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** I have already stated that Rs 35,000 will be found by our Government and Rs 7,500 by the local Indian community in Burma

#### Development of Industries

\*620. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether the Punjab Government have approached the Union Government for liberal financial assistance for the development of Industries in the State, and

(b) if so, the action taken on their request?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b) While there have been many discussions on the subject between the State Government and us, there has been no specific request of the type that the Hon'ble Member refers to. However, I may add with your permission, Sir, that last year we provided Rs 75 lakhs for small industries in the Punjab

#### Closure of Jute Mills

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\*621. { **Shri Sadhan Gupta:**  
          **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that many jute manufacturing concerns in West Bengal have closed down certain mills and installed the machinery in other mills belonging to them, and

(b) if so the number of jute mills closed and the number of workmen rendered unemployed without any retrenchment benefits whatsoever?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) and (b) Four

Jute Mills employing 3400 workmen have closed down in the last three months. As far as the Government is aware, the machinery in these mills had not been installed in other mills belonging to the companies concerned. The retrenched workmen would be entitled to compensation as provided in the Industrial Disputes (Amendment Ordinance) 1957.

I may add that only 300 workmen out of those employed in two of these mills have been rendered unemployed. The rest of them have been absorbed in the sister concerns of the mills concerned.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** May I know how many of these mills were closed down before the 27th April, when the ordinance came into force, and whether the workers of the four mills who have not been absorbed would be entitled to receive compensation under the new ordinance?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Yes, Sir. The workmen who are not employed by the mills which are connected with these mills which have been closed down, will be entitled to compensation, and the West Bengal Government has already taken up this question.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** May I know whether there has been a discussion between the West Bengal Government and the management of these mills and, if so, what is the outcome of the discussion?

**Shri Abid Ali:** As I have already submitted, this matter has been taken up by the Government of West Bengal and they have not communicated to us the details or the results of their efforts.

**Shri Palaniandi:** It is said "Rationalisation without tears". Now, in regard to these workers who are retrenched, may I know whether the Government will try to give them employment?

**Shri Abid Ali:** This retrenchment was not due to rationalisation. Two of the mills were uneconomic and two

of them had financial difficulties. Therefore, those mills were closed down.

### Evacuee Property

\*622. { Pandit M. B. Bhargava  
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state

(a) the present position in respect of the Evacuee properties—residential and agricultural—situated in India and Pakistan,

(b) whether any agreement at Governmental level exists in respect of all or any of the properties,

(c) if not, what is the policy of the Government of India in respect to the Evacuee properties situated in India, and

(d) the estimated value of the Evacuee properties of every description situated in India and Pakistan and how Government of India propose to press its claim for compensation in respect to the difference in valuation of the properties of Indians lying in Pakistan?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna):** (a) to (c) There is no agreement with the Government of Pakistan on immovable properties, both urban and rural. Evacuee properties, both urban and rural, situated in India are being dealt with as provided in the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954 and the Rules framed thereunder. The Act provides *inter alia* that compensation shall be paid to an evacuee in respect of his property acquired under Section 12 in accordance with such principles and in such a manner as may be agreed upon between the Government of India and Pakistan.

(d) The claims of displaced persons from West Pakistan for immovable property left there have been verified

by the Government of India. The value of these claims excluding agricultural land claims which are verified in terms of standard acres, is roughly Rs 500 crores. The value of evacuee properties in India excluding agricultural lands is estimated at less than Rs 100 crores. In spite of sustained efforts on the part of Government of India, Pakistan has so far evaded settlement of the immovable property question.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** May I know whether the Government of India have examined this question with a view to refer it to the International Court of Justice?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** The question has not been referred to the International Court of Justice so far.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know when was the last attempt made by the Government of India *vis-a-vis* the Government of Pakistan in order to arrive at any settlement about this issue?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** I think the last attempt was made last year. I wrote to the Government of Pakistan. I remember having had personal discussions with them in this connection. The Prime Minister also wrote to the Prime Minister of Pakistan in this connection many a time. But the attitude of the Government of Pakistan, as I have said in the reply to the question, is really of a negative kind—a negative approach.

**Shri Thanu Pillai:** May I know, Sir, whether there are not any cases in which the evacuees who have returned from Pakistan, have had their properties restored?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** There is no question of any evacuee returning from Pakistan to India. It is the displaced persons who have come from Pakistan to India, and we are paying them compensation under the compensation scheme.

**Shri Thanu Pillai:** There are persons who went over to Pakistan, opting for service in Pakistan, and who have since returned to India and