

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

whose properties were taken by the evacuee owners and they have not yet been given to those people. What is the policy of the Government? May I know whether the properties will be returned to the original owner of the property or will they also be disposed of and some compensation given?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna If the hon. Member is referring to the nationals of Pakistan

Shri Thanu Pillai No, to the nationals of India

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna There is no property of any national of India which has been taken over by us

Shri Thanu Pillai When they opted for service in Pakistan and went over to Pakistan they became Pakistani nationals

Mr. Speaker Let us not argue it here

Shri Thanu Pillai Their property is not given to them

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna I may answer, Sir, that there is a section called section 16 under which restoration certificates can be given if they conform to certain conditions

Shri Thanu Pillai May I add one point? There are petitions lying for two years and not disposed of and the people are in difficulty

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna That is not correct. I had about 9,000 applications pending with me about two years ago. The number is only a few hundred today

साला प्रवित राम मे जानना चाहता हू कि हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान के बीच फ़ैमना हाने की सूरत मे अगर कुछ रुपया भारत को मिला तो क्या उस रुपये को डिप्लोमेट परसम को दिया जायगा या गवर्नमेंट अपने पास रखेगी ?

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना मेरे दोस्त को कुछ से भाशा बरा ज्यादा ही है। अगर हमें

कुछ रुपया मिला तो मैं भाशा करता हू, वह शरणार्थियों को ही मिलेगा।

Shri A. S. Sarhadi May I know if the Government has considered the feasibility of referring the matter to the International Court of Justice?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna The Prime Minister referred this very method to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, as I stated a little while ago. But their reaction has been unfavourable

Indian Trade Delegation

*623. **Shri Radha Raman**. Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a trade delegation under the leadership of Shri G. D. Birla is going to foreign countries,

(b) if so, whether Government have approved the proposal for sending this delegation, and

(c) the countries it is going to visit?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo). (a) It is understood that the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry propose to send an industrial delegation to visit certain countries of Europe and the USA and that Shri G. D. Birla has been invited to lead the Delegation

(b) Yes

(c) This is still under consideration

Shri Radha Raman May I know whether the Government is aware of the number which will constitute the delegation and the duration for which the delegation will remain outside India?

Shri Kanungo: We understand that the number is proposed to be of fifteen members of which two or three have not agreed so far, and the duration is proposed to be seven weeks

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know what is the purpose of this delegation?