

Charbatia Refugee Camp in Orissa

S. N Q No. 6 **Shri Panigrahi**: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether military police lathi charged and fired tear-gas shells on the 4th March, 1958 on refugees living in Charbatia Refugee Camp near Cuttack in Orissa,

(b) what led to such action by the military police,

(c) the number of refugee families living in the Charbatia Refugee Camp,

(d) whether the conditions of the refugees living in this camp have ever been enquired by any officer of the Government of India,

(e) if so, whether any report has been submitted to the Government of India the working of the refugee camps in the State of Orissa, and

(f) since when the Charbatia Refugee Camp is being run?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna). (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha [See Appendix V, annexure No 17]

Shri Panigrahi. When the refugees were told to move to this colony, they represented to the State Government that the colony near Bhusandapur was not suitably provided with drinking water facilities and tanks for bathing. Was the Ministry aware of this demand?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna. There is no shortage of drinking water either in Bhusandapur or in the area to which these people were to be shifted. There is already a natural spring. Three temporary wells have already been dug and we are also making arrangements for the sinking of permanent wells.

Shri Panigrahi. May I know the number of East Pakistan displaced persons sent to camps in Orissa so

far and how many of them have been permanently rehabilitated in different centres of the State?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: If the hon Member is referring to the Charbatia Camp, this was opened some time in 1956. I think the number of persons in that camp at one time was round about 5,000 and a number of them have been rehabilitated. Others are in the process of rehabilitation.

Shri Panigrahi: I did not mean only Charbatia Camp. I wanted to know the number of refugees that have come to Orissa and how many of them have been rehabilitated.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: If the hon Member is referring to the number of displaced persons or refugees who have gone to Orissa right from 1947 till today, he will have to give me notice of a separate question.

Shri Mahanty: What was the provocation for the lathi charge? That has not been stated.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The provocation for the lathi charge was that we were moving people from camps to rehabilitation sites. Some time in the month of February about 240 families were told that we will start their movement to rehabilitation sites from the 1st March, 1958. Out of them, about 151 families moved out to the rehabilitation sites, but 89 families refused to move and the plea given was that they wanted to be sent back to West Bengal and not to Bhusandapur.

Shri Panigrahi. Has it come to the notice of the Government that after the refugees peacefully dispersed the Military Police forcibly entered into the huts of the refugees and mercilessly beat the inmates of the huts?

Mr Speaker: After the refugees peacefully dispersed the Police entered into the huts and disturbed the inhabitants?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: My information is entirely to the contrary. My information is that when those (laughter)

Mr. Speaker: The Government is always in the wrong and the other people are right. They are all the time complaining against Government in this House. As soon as a question is put and the answer is given there is a laughter. Shall I ask these people to laugh when a question is put?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We have no objection to anybody's laughter.

Shri Mahantya rose—

Mr. Speaker. Order, order. I am not concerned one way or the other. I am here only to regulate the debate and as far as possible to help democracy to grow. But, these are not the methods by which it can grow. Why should there be laughter? It is a serious matter, whether these persons have been beaten. A serious question has been put. "After they dispersed peacefully why should the police enter the huts and just molest them?" Government is responsible here. Government must give an answer. Government says, no, no, to the best of our knowledge, it is not correct. Then you begin to laugh. What shall I do? Shall I order an enquiry? (Interruption) No, no. Very wrong. It is not a matter for laughter.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Even then, they are laughing.

Mr. Speaker: When hon. Members laugh, they get laughter also.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Let us hear the version of the Minister.

Mr. Speaker: He has given the version that it is incorrect.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: He has not replied.

Mr. Speaker: He says it is not correct.

Some Hon. Members: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. If hon. Members are not satisfied what am I to do? Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Newsprint Factory, Nizamabad

*924. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 137 on the 14th November, 1957 and state

(a) whether the efforts to secure satisfactory terms of foreign collaboration have since been concluded in regard to the setting up of a newsprint factory at Nizamabad,

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement, and

(c) when the action for setting up of this plant will be initiated?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is still under negotiations.

Bank Employees

*925. **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Banks Association has announced an increase in dearness allowance for its employees,

(b) if so the number of bank employees to be benefited by the same, and

(c) the date from which the increase will be effective?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) About 60,000.

(c) 1st January 1958.

Tea Export

*928. **Shri Muhammed Elias:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) how much blended and packeted tea has been exported out of India in 1957,