

**Refugees from West Bengal going to Dandakaranya**

+

- \*378. {  
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:  
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:  
 Shri Kodiyan:  
 Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:  
 Shri P. C. Borooah:  
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
 Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:  
 Shri Hem Barua:  
 Shri Supakar:  
 Shri Sadhan Gupta:  
 Pandit J. P. Jyotishi:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to serve notices on refugees en bloc living in small camps of West Bengal to leave for Dandakaranya within the stipulated dates or forfeit the relief they get at present;

(b) if so, whether refugees voluntarily going to Dandakaranya will be given some additional Government assistance; and

(c) the number of refugees rehabilitated there so far and expenses incurred?

**The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar):** (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) 1,725 families have been moved to villages sites. Of these, 1,142 families have already been allotted homestead plots and 651 families, agricultural lands. Rs. 2,07,111 have been advanced to settler families on account of agricultural loans and Rs. 34,050 on account of rural business loans.

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** May I know the approximate number of families which are still in small camps, and the steps that are being taken to persuade them to go there?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand**

**Khanna):** It has been stated in the answer that notices have been already issued by the Government of West Bengal to the families living in small camps. The total number of small camps is about eight.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** May I know the shortfall so far in the matter of rehabilitation of these refugees in the Dandakaranya area?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** About December, or November, the Dandakaranya Development Authority intimated that they wanted 2000 families by about the 15th of December, 1960, to be sent to Dandakaranya. During the last five months, only about four hundred families have gone.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know the reasons for the reluctance of the West Bengal Government refugees to move to Dandakaranya, and the efforts that Government have made to overcome the reluctance during the last three months?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** The reluctance is an inherent disease that has gone on during the last so many years. As far as the Dandakaranya Development Authority is concerned whatever was required to be done, and was possible, has been done. Three things were required to be done by the West Bengal Government. The first was that the Chief Secretary should be associated with the project. That has been done. The second was that there should be a whole-time chairman. That has been accepted, and a whole-time chairman has been appointed. Thirdly, it was said that this board should be given a sort of semi-autonomous status. That was also agreed to by the Prime Minister in the meeting with the Chief Minister of Bengal in June last.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know the total number of displaced persons likely to be moved from West Bengal to Dandakaranya in 1961, and whether those who refuse to go will forfeit their rehabilitation loans?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** The number of families in camps in West Bengal is about 20,000 today—I am speaking from memory. Notices had been given last year, but nothing happened. Notices have again been given, but these families do not seem to be moving to Dandakaranya. If they only moved and followed our advice, I should in a position to give the House the actual number.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether any reasons have been put forward by those displaced persons who have refused to move, and if so, what they are, and what steps have been taken by Government to remove those difficulties?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** The reasons, as far as I have been able to gather during my stay in West Bengal, are as follows. The first is that quite a large number of them have got roots, and they are getting free doles and they do not want to go. Others, unfortunately, are in the hands of certain people who want these people to stay there, whether on account of vested interest or some other interests.

**Shri Supakar:** May I know what area in Dandakaranya has been reclaimed for agricultural purposes, and what area is under actual occupation by the refugees?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** I think about 85,000 acres have been placed by the two State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa at the disposal of the Dandakaranya Development Authority. I think we have tree-felled round about 25,000 acres, and maybe, about 15,000 to 20,000 acres have been fully reclaimed. Only about three days ago, I circulated a detailed progress report on Dandakaranya, to all the Members of Parliament.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** In view of the fact that the response is not encouraging from that side, is there any proposal under consideration to

bring in landless people from the local area or from some other States?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** I have not lost hope as yet. This question can be considered then.

**\*CORRECTION OF REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 377**

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Prime Minister.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I am grateful to you, Sir, I want to correct a statement which I just made in connection with the Edwina Mountbatten Fund. I have just been looking at the names of the members of the committee of the Fund. The names include one Minister of this Government, Shri Krishna Menon, two Governors, namely Shri Sri Prakasa and Miss Padmaja Naidu, and one Chief Minister, Dr. B. C. Roy. If you so wish, I can read out all the names.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not necessary.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** Let all the names be read.

**Mr. Speaker:** What is the need?

**श्री अर्जुन सिंह भवीरिया :** इस के पदाधिकारियों का चुनाव किस तरीके से होता है ?

**श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू :** कमेटी ने अपने पदाधिकारी चुने ।

**श्री ब्रजराज सिंह :** पूरे नाम बता दीजिये कृपा होगी ।

**Mr. Speaker:** How many of them are there?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Nearly 20.

**Mr. Speaker:** No, no. Next question.

**Shri Vajpayee:** May I know whether the hon. Defence Minister asked the permission of the Central Government to join this charitable fund?