

**Solution of Bangla Desh Refugees Problem**

686. DR. RANEN SEN :  
SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the response from international community to the Indian appeal to create the necessary conditions in Bangla Desh for the refugees to return in safety and honour had been very poor ; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to solve the problem of Bangla Desh refugees in India ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. There is now a general consensus in the international community that the further influx of refugees from East Bengal can be stopped, and the East Bengal refugees now in India will return to their homeland if the situation inside East Bengal is normalised through a political settlement.

(b) The Government is determined to see that the refugees return to their homeland and is continuing its efforts at the highest possible level to prevail upon the international community to persuade the military regime of Pakistan to reach a political settlement for this purpose with the already elected representatives of the people of East Bengal.

**Amendment of Employees' Provident Funds Act**

687. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to amend the Employees' Provident Funds Act to provide for more deterrent punishment, including imprisonment in case of default by employers in respect of payment of their share to the Fund ; and

(b) if so, when a final decision will be taken on the subject ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Certain proposals to

provide for more deterrent penalties in case of default are under consideration.

(b) A decision is expected to be taken shortly.

**Anti-Malnutrition Programme for Bangla Desh Refugees**

688. SHRI M. M JOSEPH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the anti-malnutrition programme of supplementary feeding and medication for Bangla Desh refugee children had been hit by red tape and lack of official co-ordination ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) . (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Protest note from Pakistan**

689. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan Government had sent a protest note on the 30th September, 1971 alleging that four of the East Bengali Officials of Pakistan High Commission and their families were kidnapped by the Indian authorities ; and

(b) if so, the contents of the protest note and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copies of the Pakistani note and our reply thereto are placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—1029/71*]

**Offer of Mediation of U. N. Secretary General to ease Tense Situation in Indian Sub-continent**

690. SHRI C. CHITTIBABU :  
SHRI N. K. SANGHI :