

Rehabilitation of Repatriates from Sri Lanka

1696. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:

SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM:

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a number of evacuees who came from Sri Lanka are facing lot of difficulties as Government have not provided proper relief and rehabilitation facilities to them and if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(b) the total number of such evacuees in India at present; and

(c) the relief and rehabilitation facilities offered to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) The Government of India have accepted the responsibility of the relief and rehabilitation of the repatriates from Sri Lanka coming to India under the Indo-Ceylon Agreement, 1964. Various measures for giving adequate relief to the repatriates on their arrival from Sri Lanka have been undertaken with the co-operation of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Specific schemes for rehabilitation like Plantations, resettlement in agriculture and employment in industries have been sanctioned in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. All these schemes are implemented by the State Governments and the Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In addition the State Governments and the Chief Commissioner have been authorised to grant loans for trade/business besides housing subject to certain prescribed ceilings. The Government of India provide the necessary funds to the State Governments by way of grants and loans for the various relief measures and rehabilitation schemes.

(b) 1,20,023 persons (28,584 families) of Indian Origin have arrived from Sri Lanka so far.

(c) A Statement giving details of the schemes for relief and rehabilitation of Sri Lanka repatriates is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5769/73].

Pakistant P. O. Ws. Killed while Attempting to Escape

1697. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:

SHRI SARJOO PANDEY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many of Pakistani Prisoners of War were killed while attempting to escape or creating trouble in camps; and

(b) how many of them are missing from their camps?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Sixteen Pakistani prisoners of war were killed in their attempts to escape and thirty-five were killed while creating trouble in camps.

(b) Twenty-two Prisoners of war, who escaped from Prisoners of War camps, are still at large.

Coal Supply position in Eastern Region

1698. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal supply position in the Eastern region has registered a sharp deterioration in the recent period;

(b) whether wholesale and retail prices of coal have also sharply increased and coal in many areas have vanished from the open market;