

Title: Reported influx of refugees from Bangladesh.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): I would like to draw the attention of this House to the most unpalatable developments in Bangladesh which has triggered a steady influx of refugees into India. The Talibani Cousins in Bangladesh under the present dispensation have got a fresh lease of life and after a long hibernation they have come out with all possible virulent agendas against the secular elements in Bangladesh, as a consequence of which the minorities are fleeing away out of fear and desperation. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, please do not interrupt. I do not want you to interrupt anyone. Only yesterday we have passed a Resolution.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : In the border districts of West Bengal a steady influx of refugees has been observed. But it is intriguing to note that both the State Government of West Bengal and the Central Government are playing reticent in disclosing as to what exact number of refugees have already entered into India. This is only adding grist to the rumour mill. It is a matter of serious concern that in this milieu the BSF Jawans in the border areas are resorting to the baton and bullet policy.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please mention what you want from the Central Government.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : It is simply strengthening the hands of the fundamental elements of all hues who are acting in this border region.

Sir, already a few innocent people have fallen victims to the trigger happy BSF jawans. My suggestion to this Government is that the atrocious attitude of the BSF personnel should be restrained. Secondly, the issue of refugees should be taken up with Bangladesh Government sincerely and more consistently.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: One more notice has been given on this matter by Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): Sir, India and Bangladesh have got friendly cultural and traditional relations. We have been divided after Independence. But earlier, we were united. Recently, after the political battle and since the new Government has come, lakhs of minorities, specially linguistic minorities, are forced to go out of Bangladesh to the border States of India like West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya. They are being ill-treated by our country. Actually, I do not want to show any disrespect to my country because I am proud of my country but the message should go to the State Governments. The matter is relating the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh. So, my request to this august House, through you, would be that the Government must intervene in this matter.

The United States Resolution, 1951 says that if anybody is tortured, if their life and property are not secure and safe and if they are forcefully turned out from that country to the bordering districts of neighbouring countries, then they should be treated as refugees. People who are coming from Bangladesh are not infiltrators but are refugees. So, the Government must insist and give instructions to the State Governments to consider them as refugees and behave properly with them. They should start some refugee camps to give them relief and other materials required. They have property with them and are staying there since Independence. But due to political problem, they are forced to come here. Since *Ramzan* is going on, we want to convey our regards to the Bangladesh Government and build up good relations with them. So, my second suggestion to the Government would be to pursue the matter. Either the Ministry of External Affairs or the Ministry of Home Affairs or the PMO may persuade the matter with the Bangladesh Government so that it would be sorted out as early as possible.

Thirdly, recently, a girl died due to BSF firing. If this situation continues, then communal tension would increase. That is why, my appeal to the Government is to cut across party lines and sort out this problem between both Governments. Otherwise, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura would face the same problem and our brothers and sisters in Bangladesh also would face the same problem. We want to congratulate the Bangladesh Government and at the same time, Bangladesh and India should always work together. This message should go to the Government of Bangladesh.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the Government should respond to the matter raised by Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री सैयद शाहनवाज़ हुसैन) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो मामला उठाया है, उसे मैं संबंधित मंत्री तक पहुंचा दूंगा।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, You are replying to this issue or the earlier one.

श्री सैयद शाहनवाज़ हुसैन: जहां तक सुश्री ममता जी ने जो मामला उठाया है, वह भी संबंधित मंत्री तक पहुंचा दूंगा।
