

(ix) Need to expedite construction of bridges on River Asan and Pali in Morena district, Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI BARE LAL JATAV (Morena) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in my Constituency Morena, a bridge is under construction on river Asan on Agra-Bombay National Highway. The bridge should be immediately completed and opened, as the river water swells up during the monsoons and thousands of trucks get stranded for 10 days on both sides of the river. In the public interest, the construction of this bridge should be expedited.

The construction work of Pali bridge, which is to link Sheopur in Morena district with Rajasthan border, should also be expedited. The work is going at a snails' pace at present. The construction work on Usaid ghat bridge, the foundation stone of which was laid by Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and which is going to link Porsa in Morena district with Uttar Pradesh, should also be undertaken at the earliest. I, therefore, would like to request the Union Government that the above mentioned construction works should be completed on priority basis.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House now stands adjourned for Lunch till 2.20 p.m.

13.18hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE in the Chair]

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN : Now, statement by the

Minister, Shri Salman Khurshed.

14.28hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**RE: The visit of Bangladesh Minister of Communication Col. Oli Ahmed to Chakma Refugees camp on May 8-9
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALAMAN KHURSHEED):**

Sir, The Bangladesh Minister for Communications Col. (Rtd.) Oli Ahmrf paid a visit to India at the invitation of the minister for Railways Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief from may 2-9, 1993. Both Ministers held comprehensive and wide-ranging discussions on cooperation in the railway sector. I accompanied Col. Oli Ahmed on his visit Tripura from May 8-9, 1993 to meet with representatives of Chakma refugees with a view to encouraging their early return to Bangladesh.

In this connection, it may be recalled that during the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India in May 1992, the two Prime Ministers agreed to arrange the speedy repatriation of all Chakma refugees to Bangladesh in full safety and security. In this contact the Bangladesh side agreed to set up a representative Political Level Committee that would encourage the refugees to return. The Indian side assured the Bangladesh delegation that its authorities would cooperate fully in the process of repatriation. The issue of repatriation of Charkma and other tribal refugees was discussed during our Foreign Secretary's visit to Dhaka in August 1992 and the visit of the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh to India in November 1992. The issue was also discussed at bilateral meetings during the 7th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in April 1993.

Prior to his visit to Tripura on May 8-9, 1993, the Bangladesh Minister held talks with the Home Minister as well as the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R.L. Shatia on the

subject. In Tripura the two delegations had formal discussions on May 8, 1993. The Bangladesh Minister visited three refugee camps in South Tripura and addressed tribal refugees of Chittagong Hill Tracts on May 9, 1993. Following the talks as well as the visit to the refugees camps, the two delegations agreed on the following:

(a) Recalling the Agreement reached between PM and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in May 1992, the Bangladesh side reiterated its commitment to take back the refugees whereas the Indian side reiterated its willingness to render full cooperation to facilitate their return to Bangladesh.

(b) The Bangladesh side agreed to undertake all necessary measures that would encourage the refugees to return and restore their homes and legitimate properties and assured that they will live in dignity, safety and security.

(c) The two side agreed to begin the process of repatriation within 30 days and exchanged views on the broad parameters of the process.

(d) The Government of Bangladesh agreed to accept all tribal Bangladeshi refugees from Chittagong Hill Tracts based upon the available records of both side and information furnished by the concerned village headmen.

(e) The Government of Bangladesh agreed to ensure return of land and homestead belonging to a refugee.

(f) The Bangladesh Government agreed to sustain by way of rations a refugee during his stay at the reception camp and also give him cash grant for construction of a house and other necessities for his rehabilitation.

Finally, both the sides agreed that one or more teams of concerned officials as considered necessary, could meet immediately on May, 19 1993 to firm-up all the details so that the

repatriation could be expeditiously implemented.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the Primary concern of the Government of India is the quick repatriation of the tribal refugees to Bangladesh. It is hoped that the Government of Bangladesh will now fulfill its commitments by taking back all the tribal refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts speedily. As regards the Government of India, we are already to extend full cooperation and assistance to facilitate the repatriation of these Bangladeshi nationals to their homeland. We also hope that the repatriation of these refugees to Bangladesh will pave the way for the resolution of other outstanding issues between India and Bangladesh.

MAJOR. GENERAL (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Communications Minister of Bangladesh has visited our country on the invitation of the Railway Minister. Now, were these External affairs items on the agenda for discussions or were they off the cuff discussions? I want to know whether these discussions were planned already or not.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : Sir , although clarifications are not sought in the Lok Sabha, the hon. Member has asked a pertinent question. The Bangladesh Minister had come prepared. He had sanction from the Government of Bangladesh and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. He had detailed discussions with the Home Minister who is also present here. I had already made preparations for him to be received in a refugee camp and for all authorities to be present there. He had a meeting with the Chief Minister of Tripura also and everything was laid out in order to facilitate maximum exchange of views with the Bangladesh side which was accompanied by six MPs of various parties of Bangladesh in Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYADEO SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Communications of

[Sh. Satyadeo Singh]

Bangladesh visited India and held discussions at several levels. The issue of Chakma refugees also came up. The Bangladesh side agreed to undertake all necessary measures for repatriation of refugees and assured to create an atmosphere of safety and security for them. I would like to know whether any discussion was held at any other level for the measures being taken to send back the Bangladeshi infiltrates. Does the Government not consider it a national problem?

SHRI SALMANKHURSHEED : The hon. Member's question is not related to Chakma refugees. A discussion was held in regard to Chakma refugees and it was in this context that the statement was given (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, there are four Statutory Resolutions of the same nature. Is it the pleasure of the House that we take up all the four Resolutions together?

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : That would be better, Sir.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : There should be separate discussions on the four different resolutions. This will provide us an opportunity to have separate discussions on the different problems being faced by the different States. The Proclamations by the hon. President were made on different dates. For example, there was a proclamation made on the sixth of the month while another proclamations were made on 16th of the month. It would therefore not be proper to take up all the Resolutions together. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We can avoid duplica-

tion of debate and it will save the time also.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the points which will be raised during the debate are going to be the same almost, there is no point in having separate discussions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : We agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They will be discussed together. Minister may move the Statutory Resolutions now.

14.34 hrs.

[*English*]

STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS RE: CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMATIONS IN RESPECT OF UTTAR PRADESH, MADHYA PRADESH, HIMACHAL PRADESH AND RAJASTHAN

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : I beg to move:

"That this house approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 5th December, 1992 in respect of Uttar Pradesh, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 6th June, 1993."

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 15th December, 1992 in respect of Madhya Pradesh, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 15th June, 1993."

"That this House approves the continu-