

[Shri Jagdish Bhattacharyya]

were made about the misuse of power by some of the officials of the society during the election of a member and lady member of this House. In pursuance of this allegation an Inquiry Committee was instituted under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Secretary of the Ministry Mr. K. K. Khan. Earlier the matter was also referred to in Rajya Sabha but till today we do not know the findings of the Committee and whether Government have taken any action against the officials who have been found guilty by the Committee if it be so. Naturally therefore we are entitled to know about this inquiry and I hope the hon. Minister will come out with details about it when he replies to the debate. With these words I conclude.

18.06 HRS.

#### HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

##### REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES FROM FORMER EAST PAKISTAN

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, We take up the Half-an-hour discussion. Shri Samar Guha.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : I do not know whether there is any recorded history in any part of the world or at any time that the people who fought valiantly for their freedom with an implicit faith in the leadership, ultimately got a series of shocks of betrayal by that leadership.

The minorities of East Bengal as also the other people of Bengal had been to the dreamland of their heaven but that heaven of freedom was thrust on them at a calamitous cost. Not only that, they were partitioned and were denuded of their historical nation-ship. Soon after the Partition, the officers opted out and then in 1950 in three months over 30 lakhs of refugees crossed the border. Then the Nehru-Liaquat Pact was another betrayal. And I do not know whether Mr. Khadiilkar will have the reputation of hatching another conspiracy against the refugees by somehow managing the

liable Chief Minister and creating some illusion in him for the integration of the people as if he has developed certain vested interests of refugees and trying somehow how to drop the 'refugee' and 'displaced person'. If it is done, I warn Mr. Khadiilkar. You can have this conspiracy between yourself and the Chief Minister of your Party, between the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of West Bengal. But the people of East Bengal know how they have suffered, the people of the Assam, the people of Tripura, the people of the whole eastern India, how they have suffered as a result of the tremendous influx of refugees. This conspiracy of completely dropping the word 'refugee' and the ordinary word 'displaced person' by creating an impression that the refugee problems have been solved and only marginally or peripherally the residual problems remain, then I warn him what a sort of agitation he has seen in Gujarat, what, a sort of agitation he has seen in Bihar will be the result. If you try to do that conspiracy, then there will be a volcanic eruption—I warn you—in West Bengal, in Tripura and also in a large part of Assam because they know the problems of refugees have not been settled.

With these words, I want to draw your attention as to how discriminately they have treated these East Bengal refugees and the refugees from West Pakistan. According to Government figures, after 1960, 41.77 lakhs refugees came. After 1971 there was an influx of about 9 lakhs. So total is 50.68 lakhs. In 1971 at the end of the Khulna and Jessore riots, another 11 lakhs came. So the total is 61.68 lakhs and there are many unregistered refugees like Shri B. K. Daschowdhury and others. So, the total figure will be about 65 lakhs...

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar) : What about you ?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I am also unregistered. The total figure of refugees from West Pakistan is 47 lakhs

and for East Pakistan it is 65 lakhs. Without grudging the benefits which the Government have given to those betrayed people who have migrated from West Pakistan, I want to show what discriminative attitude you have taken about these former East Pakistani refugees. What have you given to the refugees from West Pakistan? Straightway, from the transit camps, they were sent to the Rehabilitation sites. For one or two weeks they were in the relief camps. Straightway they were sent to the Rehabilitation site and thus the problem of their rehabilitation was directly solved. What have you given to them? You have given them land. You have given West Pakistan refugees 70 lakhs acres, of which 60 lakhs acres are from Punjab and Haryana only and only 10 lakhs are from other States and you have given 6½ lakhs rural houses to them. You have given these to them in Punjab and Haryana alone. I can challenge you. Regarding urban houses, industrial and other establishments, the figure is 2.18 lakhs. And, regarding Government-built colonies for the refugees, it is over two lakhs houses. And, about these urban houses and industrial establishments the compensation, in the form of evacuee compensation, has been undervalued as Rs. 100 crores. The Government-built colonies for the refugees has been undervalued as Rs. 90 crores by which you have shown that you have given only Rs. 193 crores to the refugees from West Pakistan in exchange of the properties they left in West Pakistan. Let me make the comparison, Sir. What you have done for West Pakistan for the relief and rehabilitation after 1966. This is your figure, Rs. 206 crores. For East Pakistan, Rs. 218 crores. Why is it? In the case of refugees they are there for 5 years or 10 years or 20 years or even 26 years. There are 1.10 lakhs of refugees rotting in 22 Government camps outside West Bengal. For the relief purpose the expenditure is Rs. 130 lakhs. For their relief of West Pakistan it is Rs. 70 crores and for East Pakistan Rs. 100 crores. For rehabilitation purposes you have spent for West Pakistan

Rs. 130 crores and for East Pakistan Rs. 118 crores. The total expenditure, if it is counted, according to the figure of compensation for properties comes to Rs. 355 crores and relief and rehabilitation Rs. 206 crores. The total is Rs. 561 crores. You have spent for rehabilitation purpose alone Rs. 491 crores. And, Sir, the total expenditure you have incurred so far for East Pakistan refugees for relief is Rs. 100 crores; for rehabilitation Rs. 118 crores; total Rs. 218 crores, because the compensation is 'zero' or nil. It is a big zero, you have not given them any compensation for the property they have left.

Sir, the rough, or the approximate calculation of per-head expenditure made for West Pakistan refugees is Rs. 1,192 for the rehabilitation purpose. This is the total expenditure. I have taken your own data. It is your own 1966 data. The total expenditure per head is Rs. 1,192, for rehabilitation, Rs. 1,035. The per head expenditure for East Pakistan refugees total is Rs. 335 and for rehabilitation the per head expenditure is only Rs. 181. This is the calculation from your figure. This is what you have given in this book, a 1966 Government publication.

Therefore, Sir, if I say that the Government undertook a discriminative attitude in regard to rehabilitation of the East Pakistan refugees, am I unjustified?

It is wholly unjustified. Your calculation is the base of my calculation.

I would now draw your attention to the Nehru-Liakuat Pact. It was made obviously with a view to seeing that the refugees to East Pakistan and the Indian refugees to Former East Pakistan are entitled to sell, exchange or dispose of their property. What was done by Pandit Nehru? He thought that thousands or lakhs of refugees will go back to their motherland later on if this was provided for in the Pact. The result of it was this that instead of the refugees going back

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to their motherland, they came more and more in number to India, but in vain; these refugees who went from West Bengal to Bihar and East Pakistan also came back. They were all entitled to sell, exchange or dispose of their properties freely in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. But, what happened to East Pakistan refugees? They were only the owners of 90% of the industrial production units of former East Pakistan. 60 to 70% of them were engaged in trade; I should say that about 75% of them alone were engaged in commerce. What happened to the balance of refugees, that is, 25% of refugees? After the Nehru-Liaquat Pact, all the properties were forcibly occupied, requisitioned and then, after 1965 war, those properties were declared as enemy properties. Not only that. Though they were given the freedom to sell, exchange or dispose of the property, nothing of that kind took place. The minorities were only allowed to go to East Pakistan but there never arose the question of selling, exchanging or disposing of the property. After 1965 war, all these properties were declared as enemy properties. Therefore, I say, this Nehru-Liaquat Pact was, of course, another betrayal of all the future East Pakistan minorities. After 1965, the Government decided that the properties left out in East and West Pakistan might be declared as enemy property. For that, the Government decided to give an *ex-gratia* payment upto the extent of 25% of the properties left by them either in East Pakistan or in West Pakistan.

Sir, you will be astonished to know that 101.40 crores of *ex-gratia* payment alone was given to the refugees from East Pakistan while Rs. 1.10 crores was given to the refugees from West Pakistan. All the properties were lost and nothing was left in West Pakistan. I do not know how they got Rs. 1.10 crores.

Only this morning I asked a question from the Industrial Development Minister with regard to the Ganeah Flour Mills in Delhi. But, that has

nothing to do with this at all. After 1965 war, all their properties were transferred. They got compensation for the evacuee properties, even that they got by producing various spurious documents. They got Rs. 27 lakhs as *ex-gratia* compensation from the Government. I have given many examples. I can give you the names as well. About 32 persons got Rs. 101 lakhs from Bangalore, Calcutta and other places. They have nothing to do with the refugees from East Pakistan. By various spurious documents, they got Rs. 1.10 crores as an *ex-gratia* payment for the properties left in East Pakistan. About Rs. 1.40 crores only was given as *ex-gratia* payment. This is a matter of shame.

Sir, I have done a little bit of calculation with regard to the *ex-gratia* payment that has been made to these 80 persons. Of course, I do not want to bring in the linguistic discrimination here. Those who went to former East Pakistan are the persons who went outside West Bengal and it is they who got 80% of the *ex-gratia* compensation from Government and not these real genuine evacuees—the migrants. The people who went to Bombay they all came from Silchar or West Bengal. They got 50% compensation. Not only that. But, no publicity was given at all with regard to that in the West Bengal paper. As a result, 6,000 applications were there asking for the *ex-gratia* compensation whereas 65 lakhs of refugees from East Pakistan are really entitled to get such an *ex-gratia* compensation. Sir, then all the officers from East Pakistan have been opted out. Could you not find a few officers from East Pakistan who could be in charge of *ex-gratia* compensation office. So, that is another conspiracy.

You can convince Mr. Sidartha Shankar Ray, your yes-man, that the word 'refugee' has become some connotation of vested interests. But do you understand its implication? If the word 'refugees' is dropped and the problems of the refugees are taken to be finally solved what will happen to their rights which have still to be

negotiated with Bangladesh and Pakistan government about the evacuee property? What will happen to the demand for *ex-gratia* compensation? This is again a conspiracy. If Shri Sidhartha Shankar Ray has agreed to the proposal made by the Centre he has acted foolishly. It will soon recoil on him. So, I want to know categorically what is your policy?

Secondly, about the Rs. 150 crore Master Plan prepared by West Bengal Government. Whether you are going to accept it. The refugee problem has been created by the decision of the national leaders. It is a national commitment to the refugees. If it is so, it is the national responsibility and not the responsibility of the State. Therefore, to implement or execute this Rs. 150 crore Master Plan for rehabilitation of the refugees of West Bengal should be the responsibility of the Central Government and not of the State Government. You can do it in cooperation with the West Bengal Government but should not be left as a charge exclusively for the West Bengal Government. That will be another betrayal. Further, I want to know there are still 1.10 lakh refugees in 22 camps outside West Bengal. These people have been reduced to biological animals after remaining in the camps for over 25 to 26 years. Why don't you take concrete steps to settle them? May I know what is the rehabilitation programme for them? An inter-departmental team was sent to Andamans as far back as 1967. Such an high-powered committee was never formed for any other problem. All the important Secretaries of the Government composed that inter-departmental team. That inter-departmental team prepared a note which was accepted by the Government, indicating that by 1970, seventy-five thousand refugees will be settled in Andamans and by 1972 one lakh and fifty thousand refugees will be settled in Andamans. People want to go to Andamans but the Government is completely silent. They are side-tracking and refusing the request or demand of the refugees. I want to know from

Government whether they are going to send them to the Andamans, and if so, how, when and in what way they are going to do it. I submit that they will have to do it.

It has been said that the refugees desert the rehabilitation camps. Certainly they will do it because there is no scope for their economic rehabilitation in those camps. If you settle them anywhere and everywhere you like, this is what will happen. Some refugees have been sent to Terai; they have not come back; those who are in the Naini Tal area have not come back. Those in the Dandakaranya area do not come back. Those who have been sent to the Andamans do not come back. If you give them facilities at a proper place for their proper economic rehabilitation, they will not come back. But if on the other hand you throw them in a desert on in a sandy land or anywhere and everywhere, and give money to the State Government for their rehabilitation, what will happen is that the State Government would only squander away all the money, and these refugees will get just a cost and nothing for their economic rehabilitation, and naturally they will desert the camps and come away. Therefore, I would like to know from Government what their actual scheme for the economic rehabilitation of these refugees who are still in these 22 camps is.

I want to know why the Ministry of Commerce should have to deal with the problems of *ex-gratia* compensation to the evacuees. It is the problem of the Rehabilitation Department. I would request the Rehabilitation Minister to ask the Government that that charge should be transferred to the Department of Rehabilitation, because it is the problem of the Rehabilitation Ministry. They are giving *ex-gratia* compensation for the properties which the refugees had left either in West Pakistan or in former East Pakistan. I want that the hon. Minister should ask the Government that that department should be transferred under his charge. The Department of Rehabilitation should immediately open an office in Calcutta, with a branch at

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Agartala and another at Gauhati and also issue a fresh announcement inviting fresh applications for having *ex-gratia* compensation for the enemy properties which have been declared as enemy properties or properties of the evacuees who have left.

By 31st March, the tenure of the review committee is going to come to an end. I would like to know what is going to be done in regard to that committee. Are Government going to think that the residuary problem of the refugees has been finally settled? If on the assumption they wind up that review committee, then they are really up for that conspiracy. Otherwise, it is necessary that that committee should be reconstituted, because only one Member of Parliament is there as a member. Let him reconstitute that committee, and call it a refugee committee or a refugee welfare committee or whatever he likes so that the problems of rehabilitation of the refugees in the different camps and in West Bengal proper and in Tripura and Assam can be looked after, can be reviewed and the various plans and programmes can be properly evaluated and assessed with a view to seeing how they are executed.

I would conclude with just one more sentence. These betrayed people have done a revolution. The two revolutionary centres were at Dacca. *Bande Mataram* became the national anthem by the sacrifice of the people at Barisal. Every jail in former East Bengal is hallowed by the memory of these martyrs. Therefore, I submit that these people have been betrayed. But I would request Government not to betray the future generation of the refugees. That is my humble submission to them. If they try to do it, it will recoil and we shall also not sit idle.

MR CHAIRMAN · Four Members have received priority in the ballot for asking questions.

\*SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM (Tirunelveli) : Mr. Chairman,

Sir, our country has been beset with the problem of refugee rehabilitation from the year of Independence, i.e. 1947. After partition, 58 lakhs of refugees poured into our country from former East Pakistan. The Central Government gave a solemn commitment of rehabilitation the entire lot of refugees. But, so far only 12 lakhs or refugees have been rehabilitated and 46 lakhs of people are still awaiting resettlement. Now, the Central Government are determined to get rid of their solemn commitment. They now want to shove this responsibility on the State Government. I would like to know when the master-plan prepared by the State Government for rehabilitating these refugees and for giving them employment opportunities was submitted to the Central Government and what action has been taken by the Central Government for implementing this master-plan.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is going to be the fate of the Review Committee appointed to assess the impact of rehabilitation programmes. I want to know whether this Review Committee will be allowed to survive or will be extinguished after its term.

I want to relate how the Central Government have been discriminating among the refugees from West Pakistan and those from former East Pakistan. For lakhs of refugees from West Pakistan, besides paying compensation, free houses were given in Old Rajinder Nagar in Delhi. But in the case of refugees from East Pakistan settled in Chittaranjan Colony in Delhi, a sum of Rs. 30 per sq. ft. was charged. I charge that the Government have practised discrimination in rehabilitating the East Pakistan refugees. I demand that the Government should refund all the money collected from the East Pakistan refugees settled in Chittaranjan colony and they should be given free houses, as had been done in the case of West Pakistan refugees.

\*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

According to the terms of latest *sirimavo* Bandaranaike—Indira Gandhi Agreement, by the end of 1979, 5,25,000 people of Indian origin living in Sri Lanka should be repatriated, a majority of whom are Tamil-speaking. The Tamil Nadu Government is already faced with the problem of rehabilitating 1,06,708 repatriates from Burma and 61,038 repatriates from Sri Lanka. I want to say that the Centre should not repeat in regard to Tamil Nadu what they are trying to do in West Bengal, upon whose shoulders the Central Government are trying to impose the burden of rehabilitating lakhs of refugees. I would like to know the hon. Minister what plan he has drawn up for rehabilitating 5,25,000 repatriates from Sri Lanka.

श्री बिष्णुति मिश्र (मोतिहारी) : सभापति महोदय, आप एक अच्छे वकील हैं। मैं आप के माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ कि रिहैबिलिटेशन का माने क्या है? जिस को जमीन दी उस को उस जमीन पर कोई राइट नहीं दिया। मेरे जिले में 50,000 रेफ्यूजीज हैं और मेरी कास्टीट्यूएसी में 25 हजार हैं। उन को वहा जो जमीन दी उस जमीन पर रेफ्यूजी लोगो को राइट नहीं दिया और जब राइट नहीं दिया तो रेफ्यूजीज को बैंक कर्जा नहीं देना, कोआपरेटिव बैंक कर्जा नहीं देना। मंत्री महोदय का चिट्ठी लिखते लिखते थक गए। मंत्री महोदय कहते हैं कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से कहिए। राज्य सरकार ने कहा कि सेट्रल गवर्नमेंट की रेस्पॉसिबिलिटी है। जमीन ऐकवायर करने का काम आप ने किया। रेफ्यूजी लोगो को दिया, लेकिन उन को राइट नहीं दिया तो उन को कर्ज नहीं मिलता है, डेवलपमेंट का पैसा नहीं मिलता है। नतीजा यह होता है कि जमीन बेच कर वह दूसरी जगह चले जाते हैं। यह सेट्रल गवर्नमेंट की जवाबदेही है। सेट्रल गवर्नमेंट और मंत्री जी इस को नहीं निभा रहे हैं। मंत्री जी को चिट्ठी लिखते लिखते हम थक गए। जो रेफ्यूजीज मेरे जिले में गए, उन्होंने कहा कि हम उन को ट्रेनिंग देंगे ताकि अपनी रोजी रोटी कमा सकें।

लेकिन अब तक एक भी टेकनिकल स्कूल उन्हें नहीं दिया। एक स्कूल चलाया लेकिन चलाने के बाद फिर बन्द कर दिया। अब कहते हैं कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट चलाए। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट कहती है कि सेट्रल गवर्नमेंट पैसा नहीं देती है। तो जवाबदेही सेट्रल गवर्नमेंट की है, नेशनल जवाबदेही है। सेट्रल गवर्नमेंट को अपनी जिम्मेदारी समझनी चाहिए और देखना चाहिए कि इन को टेकनिकल ट्रेनिंग देते हैं या नहीं, टेकनिकल ट्रेनिंग के लिए स्कूल खोलना चाहिए। मगर सेट्रल गवर्नमेंट कहती है कि हमारा तो काम खत्म हो गया। मैं पूछता हूँ रिहैबिलिटेशन के माने क्या है? उन का रिहैबिलिटेशन हुआ ही नहीं।

तीसरी बात यह है कि जिस जमीन पर इन को बसाया वह जमीन एक शुगर फ़ैक्ट्री से लिया, उस में ट्यूबवेल लगे हुए थे, कुछ ट्यूबवेल चल रहे हैं, सब नहीं चल रहे हैं। नतीजा यह है कि उनको खेती के लिए पानी नहीं मिल रहा है, सिंचाई नहीं हो पा रही है। जब पानी नहीं मिल रहा है तो कैसे खेती करे? तो इन को तो चाहिए था कि किसी आदमी को रिहैबिलिटेट करने के पहले उस को मारी सहायता और सहुलियतें देते। जो जमीन दी है वहा पर इन को जवाबदेही है कि ट्यूबवेल दें, उस के लिए कर्जा दें, उन के लिए रोजी रोटी का इजजाम करे। सब उस में खेती करने वाले नहीं आए। कुछ खेती करने वाले आए, कुछ रोजगार करने वाले आए। ता रोजगार के लिए इन का इतजाम करना चाहिए। उस के लिए पैसा देना चाहिए। जैसा मैं ने बताया मेरे जिले में 50 हजार रेफ्यूजीज हैं और मेरी कास्टीट्यूएसी में 25 हजार हैं। 13-14 हजार रेफ्यूजी लोगो का बोट है। वे रेफ्यूजी लोग हमारे साथ हैं, हमारे भाई हैं। उन में अच्छे लड़के हैं और जो वहा से सर्टिफिकेट ले कर आए उन को दीड़ना पड़ता है कि हम को इस सर्टिफिकेट पर नौकरी मिलेगी, या नहीं मिलेगी। बिहार गवर्नमेंट को चाहिए कि इन को रेकग्नाइज करे और कहे कि हा, नौकरी मिलेगी। अब वे

[श्री विभूति मिश्र]

अच्छी तरह से हिन्दी भी सीख गए हैं। उन को काम देना चाहिए। जो उन में पढ़े लिखे आए हैं और जो टेकनिकल काम जानते हैं उन को काम देना चाहिए। लेकिन स्टेट गवर्नमेंट नहीं देती है। आज से नहीं, जमाने से लिखते लिखते हम थक गए। सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट कहती है स्टेट में जाओ, स्टेट गवर्नमेंट कहती है सटर में जाओ। हमारी तरफ कहावत है कि बेर का मारा हुआ बबूल की तरफ जाय और बबूल का मारा हुआ बल की तरफ जाय, वही हाल है। भरा कहना यह है कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की सारा जवाबदेही है। मैं गुहा साहब का धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि बड़ा अच्छा प्रश्न उन्होंने उठाया। रिहैबिलिटेशन क माने क्या है यह आप इन का समझाइए, आप भी वकील ह, य भी वकील हैं, यह इन की अच्छी तरह से समझाइए।

SHRI B K DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar) Sir, the problem is very clear, and we have discussed in this august House umpteen times the sad plight of the refugees particularly from the former East Pakistan which is now Bangladesh. The disparities have been clearly shown by the hon speakers before me. Apart from these 70 lakh acres of agricultural land, 6½ lakh acres of other village areas, home-stead lands, and more than two lakh rural villages, some shops in the rural areas and also 2,21,000 Government-built properties, all the properties, what ever the West Pakistan displaced persons have had, they have been given the benefit of these things to be enjoyed here in India, their pension money, their deposits, their cash valuables, their contractors' agreements, their service benefits. More than two lakhs of these West Pakistan displaced persons have been given jobs under the Government undertakings and Government offices. In the case of East Pakistan displaced persons, it is hardly 322. Mark out this difference.

The basic question here, on which this discussion has been raised—though it has been given a bigger spectrum—is about the camp refugees. I shall be

very brief and short. Even in the case of the camp refugees, in reply to the Unstarred Question No 2372, the hon. Minister has replied that in Assam there are seven camps. You kindly refer to your own replies. You have said that the total number of persons is 5,311 and the number of families is 1,339.

In today's *Patriot*, there is a big report. It says—"Assam Government today close the Rehabilitation Department." What does the Government of Assam say? I quote from the *Patriot*—from its front page

There are still about 3,500 refugee families in six camps in Assam, three in Goalpara, two in Cachar and one in Kamrup. They are now getting only cash doles, varying between Rs 40 and Rs 75 according to the family size—

Not even per head. It is according to family size. Then I quote further

The State had prepared schemes for rehabilitation and submitted them to the Centre for approval and financial sanctions in many cases, but up till now nothing has been done by the Centre."

Now, according to this report, the Assam Government is closing down the Rehabilitation Department. So also will be the case with regard to Meghalaya, Tripura, Bihar and many others.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA Under a direct ve from the Centre

SHRI B K DASCHOWDHURY The disparity is this.

Here, the Minister say in his reply that there are 1,339 families. But the Assam Government's spokesman says—the Minister of Rehabilitation of the Government of Assam—there are 3,500 families. I do not know which one is correct and how this sort of figures are coming up.

In brief, I would mention. Even on the 7th March last, there was another question about the number of displaced

persons from East Pakistan in different parts of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In Little Andamans, the former East Pakistan refugees—324 families Great Nicobar, ex-servicemen 100 families; Katchal Island repatriates from Sri Lanka and Burma—there are two families, etc. Coming to the question of Little Andaman and also the main island; there are, but they are not mentioned. That have said that it is 325 only on the 7th March last.

I have a paper here distributed to me as a Member of the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Rehabilitation on the 6th October, 1973. There, it has been said: "Migrants from the former East Pakistan in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 560 families." Kindly consult your own papers.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I warn you, this Consultative Committee for the Rehabilitation Ministry is going to be wound up again by the Centre.

MR CHAIRMAN: Please continue.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: 560 families. What sort of figure the hon. Minister has given before us? Here, it has been said that it is 324 including 126 inducted in September, 1973. This is the treatment meted out to them. This can be seen from the papers submitted by the Minister of Rehabilitation. There is difference in the treatment meted out to displaced persons from former East Pakistan, ex-servicemen, repatriates from Burma and Sri Lanka. Land: Families resettled in agriculture 5 acres, for ex-servicemen—10 acres, for repatriates from Sri Lanka employment for two per family and for mazdoors and others. Homestead land: One-third acre for East Pakistan refugees and one acre for ex-servicemen. I am making a substantial point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Daschowdhury, you are entitled to ask only one question.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Maintenance assistance for East Paki-

stan refugees only cash doles, at the rate....

MR CHAIRMAN: You are entitled to ask only one question. I have given you sufficient latitude.

SHRI B. K. DAS CHOWDHURY: It is not a convention. I am taking a little time. This is very interesting. Maintenance assistance, only cash at the rate approved by this Ministry for six months. For ex-servicemen. Rs 1800 in the first year, Rs. 1350 in the second year and Rs. 900 in the third year. Maintenance assistance after the stipulated period of six months, for East Pakistan refugees 50% of the rate enunciated above that is, cash dole varying between Rs. 75. This is applicable in the case of Assam and several other places. This is 50%. For their housing, Rs. 2000 loan, plough animals etc. Rs. 800 loan. For ex-servicemen, all other assistance grants etc. lump-sum Rs 5000 and for their buildings extra Rs. 2500.

I have not come across any such disparity between man and man. By all forms, norms and standards, they are also Indian citizens. I would ask the Minister, are these East Pakistan refugees not real human beings? Are they really being humanly treated? I would ask the hon. Minister to touch his heart and have a sort of heart-searching, as to what he has been doing. We have the greatest experiences. Sir, India has been witnessing, in the past, the problem of refugees which is so gigantic, for which there is no comparison in any other part of the world. Even in the case of Bangladesh refugees, with a determined will of the Government that would have been settled. In the case of displaced persons from West Pakistan with a determined will of the Government, it has been successfully settled. Hats off to this Government. I find in the papers that in the case of settlement and rehabilitation in Chhamb area, they have a separate authority. Unfortunately, in the case of displaced persons from East Pakistan, they have not done anything. I do not say that they have not the capability to do this



[Shri B. K. Daschowdhury]  
They have that capability. But, they have not the mind to do that. As a matter of fact, Sir, if anything is to be said about this Ministry, in relation to rehabilitation of displaced persons from former East Pakistan, it is a betrayal for which there is no comparison in the world. It is absolutely a flop, a freak and a flippant. I have no grudge against the Minister personally, but, such a flop, freak and flippant Ministry I have not seen ever. Let the hon. Minister reply. Are they not real human beings? Does he not consider them as Indian citizens owing allegiance to the Indian Constitution? If that be so, why there is this double-standard? It is the Ministry for double-standards.

My hon. friend says, what is the meaning of this rehabilitation, if you do not have proper scope for settlement in terms of land and others, in the district of Champaran, from which he comes—senior Member, Shri Bibhuti Mishra. I can give this interpretation to the hon. Minister. The rehabilitation of displaced persons from East Pakistan, means to this Ministry, a coercion, means destruction of their lives and property and everything else. It is this which is being perpetrated by this Ministry of Rehabilitation at the Centre and the posterity will not forgive. It will recoil on the heads of this Ministry, whether Mr Khadilkar is the Minister today or somebody else tomorrow, it will recoil and the time is coming.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA** (Scrapore): Sir, I do not want to repeat the points mentioned by the earlier speakers. The minister will admit that throughout there has been discrimination between the West Pakistan refugees and East Pakistan refugees. It is a sorry state of affairs that after 27 years, Government has come to the conclusion that the word 'refugee' should be wiped out from the official document. I want to know whether it is a fact or not that from the Centre you have instructed the State Governments, specially the Governments West Bengal, Assam and Tripura, to wind up the rehabilitation department

About Assam, some facts have come out today in the papers that officers have already been served with notices that their services will no longer be required, because the rehabilitation department is going to be wound up. The same is the situation in West Bengal. An attempt is being made by the West Bengal Government to shift the thousands of employees working in the rehabilitation department to other departments or retrench them. This is being done under the instructions of the Central Government. The same Congress Government is there at the Centre and in the States and the Chief Minister of West Bengal has no guts to go against the Centre's instructions.

Shri Bhibhuti Mishra said that you should rehabilitate the refugees economically, either by giving them employment or by giving them the real right over the land. It is no use giving them some land where there cannot be any cultivation because they are not being given any resources for cultivation. It has been said that only 21,300—I do not know whether they are families or individuals—camp refugees outside West Bengal are going to be resettled in the fifth plan. Is this the total number of refugees to be resettled? I know even in Mana camp and outside the camp so many refugees are still to be resettled. They are not being treated as refugees because either they have lost the requisite papers or could not procure the papers by bribing the officials on the border.

My question is whether you are going to wind up the rehabilitation department in the Centre and in the eastern States of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. If not, how could the Assam Government issue such an order to the Rehabilitation Department that they are going to wind it up and the officers will be either retrenched or transferred to other States? Then, I would like to know the total number of families, which are called camp refugees outside West Bengal, which require resettlement. Is it not a fact that there are thousands and thousands who are in need of rehabilitation within a reasonable period

of time? Is it not a fact that so far as the rehabilitation of refugees is concerned the East Pakistan refugees are discriminated against, even as compared with West Pakistan, Ceylon or Burma refugees? The hon. Minister must make clear all these points in his reply.

**THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR)**: Mr. Chairman, you might recall that on the last occasion, when the Lok Sabha had a half an hour discussion, this ground was covered. I would like to remind the hon. Member that in the notice itself he has stated that he wants to raise the discussion on the following points.... (*interruptions*) (1) The reasons for the delay in rehabilitation; (2) the recommendations of the high-power committee for the re-settlement in Andamans; and (3) the responsibility entrusted to the West Bengal Government on this question. These are the three points on which the hon. Member was permitted to raise this discussion, soon after the last debate.... (*interruptions*). While I do not want to shirk the responsibility of replying to the other points, the hon. Members must remember that under the rules when they raise a debate, or a half an hour discussion, it should be confined to certain points and the same grounds need not be covered.

**श्री बिष्णुति मिश्र** : "रिहैब्लिटेसन" शब्द के ये माने बतावें, यह शब्द इसमें है।

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR**: Even then I am prepared to give a brief reply to the other points which, to my mind, are quite outside the scope of the present discussion of the half an hour discussion which was permitted by the Speaker.

There was the highly emotionally surcharged speech of my hon. friend, Shri Guha.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA**: Sir, on a point of order. It has become almost a convention that, although a half an hour discussion is asked for on the basis of wanting some clarifications, ultimately the discussion expands. I hope the Minister will deal with those points.

**MR. CHAIRMAN**: He has already promised that he will reply to all the queries, as far as practicable.

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR**: The hon. Member has raised a debate on the entire issue of the East Pakistan displaced persons and he made a comparison. My hon. friend from Bihar referred to the Bihari refugees.

Here I would like to pay my compliment to my hon. friend, Shri Guha. I know him very well. When he is outside the House, he is a sweet and calm person, and I like him. But once he is on his legs, it is extremely difficult; he knows his weakness. He was a professor. Usually, professors are very staid types of people...

**MR. CHAIRMAN**: I am sure, you still like him in the House.

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR**: I would say only one thing. I do recognise that Partition was a great tragedy. Of all the people, Bengalee people, particularly suffered the most. Admitting all these things, they should not draw comparisons and charge the Government with any sort of discrimination. There is no question of discrimination at all. The Central Government is always extremely conscious about their responsibility towards the refugees because, we feel, their suffering is due to certain political events in the past. We have taken the full responsibility, whether in the east or in the west. But in the west, because of certain happenings, their problems were settled. But in the east they are still continuing. Let us objectively apply our mind to this problem. With all our efforts to settle the problem, we are still having on hand certain refugees outside West Bengal.

So far as West Bengal is concerned, it would be wrong on his part to say that Shri Sidhartha Shankar Ray is a yes-man. I have discussed this problem with the Refugee Minister in West Bengal as well as with Shri Sidhartha Shankar Ray. He is so much concerned with it. He wants to see that there is a sense of belonging in every refugee family. He has presented the Master

[Shri R. K. Khadilkar]

Plan and he wants a sort of Plan to settle the problem once and for all. Therefore, it is not a question of the Central Government absolving itself of the responsibility.

As I said on the last occasion, their Plan is of Rs. 150 crores. Now, we have made a provision for East Pakistan displaced persons to the tune of Rs. 6 crores. We have given titles to land; we have written off the loans. I may tell the hon. Members that they should not try to politicise the issue. I want to treat it basically as a human problem....

SHRI B K DASCHOWDHURY :  
Just a clarification

SHRI R K KHADILKAR : I am not yielding.

SHRI B K DASCHOWDHURY :  
The Minister has said that loans have been written off. I want to know whether all the small loans have been written off or they are conditionally written off. Let him clarify that.

SHRI R K KHADILKAR : So, there is no question of discrimination. I totally reject even that suggestion. Secondly, so far as West Bengal Government lead by Shri Sidhartha Shankar Ray is concerned, when they came and discussed the problem, they had the best of intentions in the sense that they wanted to see that the refugee problem is settled once and for all, let us make a supreme effort to settle them and give them a sense of belonging to the land itself and, under the new development schemes, find some way to settle the problem.

They have taken the responsibility in consultation with the Central Government and in consultation with the Planning Commission. I do not imagine for a moment, whatever has been decided about giving help in the broad development Plan of West Bengal, that that will not be done.

As regards the question of compensation, the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact, he knows the position. When East Pakis-

tan was liberated, he was literally dancing in the House. I have seen it with my own eyes. I was holding the charge of refugees then. At that time he never thought that the present Government in Bangladesh would be the successor Government of the old Government. So, Nehru-Liaquat Ali pact, so far as the present Bangladesh Government is concerned, is not binding on them. He must remember that all these issues must be kept in view.

19 HRS.

SHRI B K DASCHOWDHURY :  
On a point of order. The main force of the argument is not to demand any compensation from the present Bangladesh Government. The main contention is that East Pakistan refugees did not get any compensation, their case is still to be considered; the matter should not be wound up. That is the main contention. But the hon. Minister is giving a different story.

MR CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. There is no point of order.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I carefully avoided using that sort of expression. I only used the expression that their right to compensation for the properties left behind remains. On how this right will be fulfilled, for obvious political reasons, I kept silent. Therefore, do not discuss this matter. A time will come when this may have to be solved, when we may have to evolve a process.

SHRI R K KHADILKAR : I have not referred to compensation. I have referred to the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact, the implications of it, where the entire issue could have been settled like West Pakistan. But unfortunately it could not be. I do not want to say anything just now about the compensation part because it will perhaps create further difficulties.

Now I would like to say something about Bihar. He is right in saying that, in Bihar, we have a number of refugees. They have settled down. We have advanced them loans, and so

far as title to land is concerned, it is under active consideration; it will be conferred soon. So far as other facilities are concerned, he should not feel that we have absolved ourselves of our responsibility. The only thing is that we operate through Bihar Government.

Whatever difficulties he has pointed out regarding school, drinking water, well and so on, I will see what is being done; if he writes to me, I will look into it, because he is an old friend of ours; perhaps, he is the oldest member of this House; he takes personal interest in the problems of the poor. Therefore, I was very much moved by what he said. I give him an assurance that I will look into it

So far as the main issue of Andaman is concerned, I will be very brief. He has referred to the team. I will give him a few facts on that. The whole question is regarding the team. The hon. Member would realise that the Andaman-Nicobar Islands have rich forest resources, and when we think of settling there, we have to remember one thing. Extraction of forest wealth, utilisation of forest resources, survey of land, all these preliminary things are there. Then there is also the question of infra-structure, roads and waterways. All these things take a long time. But they are being done. When the team was set up in 1964-65, they thought that there were 75,000 persons on the mainland. They visualised that within five years this number will be doubled. But, when they thought of doubling the number, it was not all from outside because they have got to see that the additional population that is growing there must also be found some place and land. Then, there are the landless labour as also the tribals. They also need some land. . .

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Why is the Minister giving a distorted picture ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I am giving all the facts.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I would request the hon. Minister to go through that printed report.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If this dialogue goes on, we will never reach the end.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : So far as refugee resettlement in the Andamans is concerned, I am giving you the figures at the present juncture. In Betapur the Middle Andamans 329 families have been settled. In Neil Island, as he mentioned, 98 families have been settled. In Little Andamans, 123 families have been settled. So the total is 560 families. Another 126 families have just gone there.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : But this was the reply given by your officials.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : So far as the Greater Nicobar island is concerned, as I said earlier when we send people, we want to create a community, a most integrated one and not an isolate one.

Another thing, we have look from the strategic point also. So, the Government have decided to settle some ex-servicemen families. So, from that angle 100 families were sent in 1969 and another 100 have just gone there. In all, it will be 400 on the East Coast and another 400 on the West Coast is the only possibility of settlement on that island and most of it, the land and settlement advantage, will go to the ex-servicemen. They have been persuaded to go and settle there.

Now, we come to the other infra-structure things.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Why should there be any discrimination between East Bengal refugees and ex-servicemen.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : There is one misconception. There was no plan. It was a sort of guidance. Later on, as I said, all these things will have to be worked out within the frame-

[Shri R. K. Khadilkar]  
work of the Union Territory administration with their co-operation. For forestry, for water, for roads and for other facilities, all these things will have to be done.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : There is a discrimination in regard to financial assistance.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I must also mention about in one island, the Little Andaman. I will only mention in brief. Half the families from East Pakistan Displaced persons, that is, 1100 will be settled on this. The total possibility is 2200. That is the present position. I would like to again appeal because the other problem of repatriates from Sri Lanka is there. We have got to settle them and we are trying to settle some of them there. ... (Interruptions). There is no possibility and it is wrong to suggest to hand over this area to one State and another area to another State. There is no possibility for that. As I said the Union Territory is administered by the Centre and we will have to accommodate both the repatriates from Sri Lanka—about 1100 families and also from East Pakistan Refugees.

To sum up, I would say one thing. All sorts of allegations have been bandied about. In the short time at my disposal, I am not in a position to give reply to them, but I say again and I repeat that there is no question of giving one treatment to one set of refugees and another type of treatment to others. Even treatment is being given. And if you just brandy words about the treatment, it will create a wrong impression. I would appeal one thing to the hon. Members. We fully

realise the fate of the refugees because 23,000 families are still in the camps; they are on my hand; I am trying to settle them on Poteru project near Dandakaranya in the coming years. So, we are doing every thing possible to settle them even outside West Bengal. I know there is pressure. West Bengal economy has its own problems. In a situation like this, I would appeal to hon. Members that they should not raise the refugee problem in a fashion as if State Government does not care so much, the Centre is neglecting them, etc. This is not the way to look at the problem. Any difficulty regarding the settlement of these people or any feeling that there is any discrimination, if in practice it is there, I will do every-thing possible to remove. With these words I would conclude.

But I would give one offer to my friend. All people are eager and I would also encourage; he mentioned to me he would like to go to the Andamans. I made enquiries; at the present moment air service is closed and the season is not good. From April onwards rain starts. Therefore, after this season is over, if there is favourable weather and communication is established, I will see at least a few who are very much interested going and visiting the island and seeing for themselves what wealth there is and at the same time what tremendous problems we have to overcome before we use it as a settlement of displaced persons. Thank you.

19.12 HRS.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 28, 1974/Chaitra 7, 1896 (Saka).