

12.15 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: PAYMENT OF  
EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION FOR  
PROPERTIES OF INDIANS IN  
FORMER WEST AND EAST PAKIS-  
TAN**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Chattopadhyaya may lay the statement on the Table.

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE  
(PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):**  
Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the Table.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai):**  
Sir, the statement may kindly be read so that we may know what it contains

**PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:**  
I will give him a copy.

**MR. SPEAKER:** To save time, we are following this practice that such statements are laid on the Table.

*Statement*

In April 1971, the Government of India introduced a scheme for grant of *ad hoc* interim relief in the form of *ex-gratia* grants from the Consolidated Fund of India at the rate of 25 per cent of the value of verified claims, subject to the maximum of Rs. 25 lakhs in each case, to Indian nationals and companies whose assets in Pakistan were seized by the Government of Pakistan during and after the Indo-Pakistan conflict of 1965, and who notified their losses and filed claims with the Custodian of Enemy Property.

During the years 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74 a total sum of Rs. 12 crores was allocated in the Budget for payment of *ex-gratia* compensation to the claimants of their property in both West Pakistan and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Out of the above allocation, a sum of Rs. 3.10 crores was paid to the claimants during these three years. During the financial year 1974-75, a provision of Rs. 2 crores was made in the Revised Esti-

mates, and an amount of Rs. 1.48 crores has been paid to the claimants till 31st March, 1975.

The Hon'ble Member has stated that most of the claims of Indian citizens from West Pakistan have been cleared whereas in the case of claimants from former East Pakistan about 90 per cent of the cases are still pending. I would like to assure you, Sir, and through you, the Hon'ble Members of this House, that no discrimination is made by Government between migrants from West Pakistan and those from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), while dealing with their applications for grant of *ex-gratia* compensation, and that every effort is being made to settle these claims as early as possible.

The claims for *ex-gratia* compensation relate to different categories, like those for confiscated cargoes, assets of Indian firms and banks taken over by Pakistan, share holdings of Indian nationals, pay, provident fund and gratuity, moveable and immoveable property etc. The claimants were required to furnish different kinds of evidence in support of their claims. The progress of the assessment of these claims was however, not very satisfactory, because of the non-availability of the required proof and documents in many cases. On the basis of various points arising out of the scrutiny of the claims of migrants from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), and with a view to expediting the verification of such claims, a decision was taken in October 1973 that oral evidence would be taken from persons in verifying their claims in respect of immoveable property, where primary or secondary evidence was not available, from persons who had knowledge of the existence of the properties for which compensation was claimed. For this purpose a panel comprising the Custodian of Enemy Property as Chairman, a senior Judge of the West Bengal Judicial Service, and a senior officer of the Land Records Department of the West Bengal

Government, was set up in June 1974. The Panel has so far examined and made recommendations in 208 cases. The Panel's recommendations are, among other matters, given due consideration by Government while deciding about the amounts of compensation to be paid to the claimants.

In all these cases, certain verifications have to be made and procedural formalities are required to be gone through before compensation can be sanctioned and this, Sir, naturally takes some time. I may, however, assure the House that Government is taking vigorous steps to settle all these claims as expeditiously as possible, including simplification of procedural formalities.

13.20 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: NEW STEEL  
PLANTS IN SOUTHERN  
REGION

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chandrajit Yadav, how long is your statement?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): Only 4 or 5 sentences.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is only 4 or 5 sentences, he can read it.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Yes, Sir. I will read it.

Sir, It may be recalled that some Hon. Members have been enquiring, from time to time, about the progress in regard to the commissioning of the Detailed Project Reports for the two integrated steel plants to be set up at Vijayanagar and Visakhapatnam. I am glad to inform the House that Government have approved the commissioning of the Detailed Project Reports for both these plants and the Steel Authority of India Ltd. have accordingly appointed Consulting Engineers

M/s. Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd. (MECON) will be preparing the Detailed Project Report for the Vijayanagar Steel Plant while M/s. M. N. Dastur and Company Private Ltd. will be preparing the Detailed Project Report for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

13.22 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): I congratulate the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara) Sir, I want to make a submission under rule 377. It is connected with the steel plant.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You cannot do it off the cuff in that way. I have called Mr. Banerjee.

13.23 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE TEXTILE MILLS MANAGED BY THE NATIONAL TEXTILE CORPORATION

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue concerning nearly 10,000 textile workers of Kanpur who are working in the mills owned by the National Textile Corporation of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give notice of something but you are raising something else.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: One thing has been sent to the Chief Minister. That is why I do not want to raise it. I have taken permission.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is very unusual. Anyway, you may continue.