

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 2, 1987/Agrahayana
11, 1909 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Loans to Displaced Persons

*372. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS :
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether refugee loans amounting
to about Rs. 100 crores disbursed till
March, 1984 have been written off by
Government ;

(b) whether these loans were given to
displaced persons from the erstwhile East
Pakistan only or they included other cate-
gories also ; and

(c) whether any formal announcement
was made about this exemption or waiver
during the last two years and if so, whether
a copy thereof would be laid on the Table
of the House ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) An
outstanding balance of Rs. 131.33 crores,
as on 1.4.85, of all loans granted upto
31.3.74 and relending loans granted be-
tween 1.4.74 to 31.3.84 to various State
Governments for rehabilitation of displa-
ced persons/repatriates in those States,
have been written off.

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(b) These loans were given to all cate-
gories of displaced persons/repatriates
including displaced persons from the erst-
while East Pakistan.

(c) In March, 1987, a Press Note was
issued and a copy of the same is given in the
statement below. Balance loans amounting
to Rs. 1.08 crores have been written off
after issue of the Press Note.

Statement

Press Note

Government of India have spent large
sums since independence on relief and
rehabilitation of refugees and repatriates
coming to India. Assistance has been given
in the shape of grants and loans. Whereas
relief assistance is given as grant rehabilita-
tion assistance is given partly as grant and
partly as loan. Rehabilitation grant is for
maintenance and loans are meant for
building house, starting small trade,
purchasing bullocks and other agricultural
implements and so on.

2. Government of India have been
receiving representations from time to time
that the refugees/repatriates have not been
able to generate sufficient surplus to be
able to repay the loans as per terms of
sanctions. Taking a sympathetic view, the
Government has been advising the State
Governments not to take coercive steps to
recover the loans. Powers were also dele-
gated to State Governments to remit/write
off irrecoverable loans. Under the dele-
gated powers the State Governments
remitted/wrote off an amount of Rs. 34.79
crores upto 31.3.1985. The Union Govern-
ment on review considered that the refu-
gees/repatriates would probably be able to
build up a better economic base for them-
selves if they were relieved of the loan
burden altogether. Accordingly, a decision
was taken to write off all types of loans

given upto 31.3.1974 and outstanding as on 1.4.1985 and relending loans given from 1.4.74 till 31.3.84 and outstanding as on 1.4.85. The decision has been made conditional on the State Governments passing on the benefits to the refugees/repatriates. In 1986 Rs. 130.25 crores of rupees recoverable from the different State Governments have been written off.

The details are like this :—

Name of State Government	Amount written off
1. Andhra Pradesh	6,03,08,575.47
2. Assam	8,87,17,947.36
3. Bihar	3,66,30,750.52
4. Gujarat	2,67,72,059.58
5. Himachal Pradesh	60,146.57
6. Haryana	11,23,011.56
7. Jammu & Kashmir	3,35,37,547.96
8. Karnataka	3,56,58,594.40
9. Kerala	74,74,703.01
10. Meghalaya	41,67,235.86
11. Manipur	8,75,010.00
12. Madhya Pradesh	5,51,03,017.10
13. Maharashtra	2,46,95,754.45
14. Orissa	2,06,86,498.31
15. Punjab	41,35,285.49
16. Rajasthan	4,35,74,138.23
17. Tripura	29,41,941.00
18. Tamil Nadu	46,64,03,703.73

19. Uttar Pradesh	1,97,64,506.50
20. West Bengal	36,99,16,391.29
	130,25,46,818.39

Instructions have been issued to State Governments to take appropriate action to give publicity to this decision and to pass on the benefit to the refugees/repatriates.

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, rehabilitation grant, assistance for house building and starting small trade and loans for purchase and maintenance of implements were given to the refugees who came to India from East Pakistan. Later on, the Government had written off all these loans. I also know that similar loans were given to the inhabitants of Adivasi settlements located near the colonies of the refugees. But it has been seen that the loans in respect of Adivasis have not been written off so far. I would like to know what action Government is going to take to write off these loans ?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question does not concern Adivasis. It concerns displaced persons. The loans in respect of the refugees from East and West Pakistan have been written off.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : He is not aware of it. The assistance that was given to those refugees was also given to the Adivasis.

MR. SPEAKER : It was given to either of the two.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Sir, he does not know about it. I know better. He should find out from his department as to how much loan was given. I am saying this because I have worked in these areas. The loans that were given to those Adivasis at that time have not been written off. The Government should have written off these loans by now. Secondly, I want to know whether this concession applies to those refugees also who come from West

Pakistan? If so, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much loan was given to them?

[*English*]

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Sir, I have given the total figure of Rs. 131.33 crores.

[*Translation*]

It includes refugees of both West and East Pakistan. So far as the rest of the question asked by Shri Das is concerned, I would like to State that

[*English*]

for these Dandakaranya tribals, we are thinking of writing off an amount of Rs. 9.15 crores and this will benefit Dandakaranya settlers and Adivasis there.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister that he has done commendable work for the refugees, so much so that even the loans have been written off. But it has been seen that there are a number of State Government departments who have not received any such instructions. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to send these instructions to all concerned departments.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Sir, the suggestion is accepted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two categories of refugees in Jammu and Kashmir—the first is of those who came from West Pakistan and the other is of those who came from Pakistan occupied area of Jammu and Kashmir. With your permission, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what was the share of each of these categories from a loan of Rs. 3.35 crores that has been written off by the Government in the State?

Secondly, the claims of the refugees who came from occupied area have been under the consideration of the Government for quite sometime now, but their claims have not been settled so far. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to pay the remaining amount in respect of their claims? If so, the time by which the claims would be settled?

[*English*]

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Sir, for Jammu and Kashmir we have written off Rs. 3,35,37,547.96. (*Interruptions*). Sir, this includes the displaced persons who came from West Pakistan.

Now, the hon. Member wanted to know about those who came after the partition to Jammu and Kashmir. Sir, separate accounts are maintained by the State Government. The total assistance rendered, both grant and loans, we have mentioned in the Statement. Therefore, whatever the Jammu and Kashmir State Government has told us, we have written off.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : Sir, as regards rehabilitation of refugees from West Pakistan, the record of the Government of India is rather dismal. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they would accept and implement the recommendations of the Samar Mukherjee Committee appointed by the Government of West Bengal.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Sir, that question we have answered repeatedly in this House because we have taken the decision and there is no question of accepting the recommendations of that Committee.

(*Interruptions*)

Priority to Externally Funded Projects

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*373. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL :

SHRI JAGANNATH PATT-
NAIK :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has decided to give high priority to class