

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The hon. Member may take it as he likes.

**Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana):** May I know whether it is true that the Chinese usually make a small monetary gift to each released Indian POW with exhortation to deposit the same in the National Defence Fund of India? If so, whether our Government perceive some slight evidence of Chinese contemptuousness towards our defence preparations?

**Mr. Speaker:** Whether it is a fact that the Chinese, whenever they release Indian prisoners, give them some money just with the purpose of having it deposited in the Indian National Defence Fund.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I have not heard of it.

**श्री बूटा सिंह (मोगा) :** चीन के कहने के मुताबिक उस केपाम ३,२१३ युद्धबन्दी हैं जिन को वह छोड़ने जा रहा है। मगर हमारे रक्षा मंत्री जी ने जनवरी में बताया था कि उनके विचार के अनुसार ३,३५० प्रिजनर्स आफ वार चीन के पास हैं। क्या हम यह समझें कि डिपेंडिंग मिनिस्टर साहब का स्टेटमेंट सही है या जो चीन कहता है, वह सही है ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** अब जो उन्होंने रिलीज करने को कहा है वह पढ दिया गया कि इतने रिलीज किये जायेंगे।

**श्री द्वारका दास बंशी (भिर) :** यह जो बन्दी आने वाले हैं हमारे यहां, उनके पश्चात भी क्या चीन सरकार के पास हमारे यहां के युद्धबन्दी बाकी रहने वाले हैं ?

**श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू :** उन का बयान यह है कि जितने उनके पास हैं, वे भेज रहे हैं। मैं यकायक नहीं कह सकता कि जो फिगर्स उन्होंने ने दिये हैं, जो गिनती दी है, वह हमारे हिसाब से सही है या नहीं।

#### HARASSMENT OF MEMBERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITY IN EAST PAKISTAN

**Mr. Speaker:** Now, the next calling-attention-notice.

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur):** I had sent also a short notice question on this matter.

**Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati):** I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported harassment of members of minority community in East Pakistan resulting in their migration into Assam as disclosed by the Finance Minister of Assam."

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh):** The details of the information communicated by the Finance Minister of Assam in the State Assembly on March 26 are that 14 Hajong families consisting of men, women and children, totalling 64 persons, arrived in Shillong on 23rd March, 1963. State Government officers questioned four leading persons from amongst these families and they have reported that these Hajong families were residents of villages named Radhanagar, Govindapur, Simakata and Panchgaon within the precinct of Kalmakanda Police Station in the district of Mymensingh in East Pakistan. They are Pakistani nationals and entered Assam without any travel documents. The reasons given by them for migrating are sense of insecurity, fear of personal molestation and economic depression in East Pakistan. They also stated that they were attracted by vacant reserve land near Village Kumarikata under Tamulpur Police Station in Kamrup District in Assam where some of their relations had been living for some time. They had crossed the border via Lengura Camp in East Pakistan and then proceeded to Maheshkhola in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills about 15 days ago and some had crossed the border

about a month ago. They are all labourers and while at Balat, they had earned their livelihood by working on a daily basis on the road which is now under construction by the Public Works Department with the intention of finally settling with their families in Kumarikata. It was also learnt that about 200 persons also from these villages in East Pakistan had similarly crossed over into India without travel documents and were also waiting to go to Kumarikata. These 64 persons have been housed temporarily at the Marwari Dharm-sala in Shillong.

The State Government have also learnt that 30 persons consisting of 7 Hajong and one Namasudra family have arrived at Zamaduar, Balat and Rajapur in the Bholapeta area respectively. Furthermore, another batch of 30 persons consisting of 9 Hajong families residents of Gilagora and Durgapur Police Station precincts, have crossed over and are now staying at Samaduar, Betgora near Ren-gur Baratgora in Bholapeta and Balat areas. They are all working as daily-paid labourers.

The State Finance Minister also disclosed that during the last two months reports have been received of increase in harassment of the members of the minority community in East Pakistan particularly in the Mymensingh District.

A strong protest has been lodged by the Chief Secretary, Assam Government, with his counterpart, Dacca, emphasising that 166 persons have already crossed over into Assam due to harassment and lack of protection by the local Pakistani authorities. The East Pakistan Government have been requested to restore immediately conditions of peace and harmony amongst the minority community in these areas and to arrange to take back these families as early as possible.

As a matter of policy, so as to discourage migration from East Pakis-

tan, we do not, at a rule, render any financial assistance to unauthorized migrants. On humanitarian grounds, we have sent Rs. 10,000 to the Chief Minister of Assam from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to assist those among these refugees who are really destitute.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that the Pakistan Minister for Information has recently said that India has adopted 'Hitlerite' methods to oppress Muslims in India, may I know whether Government have told Pakistan that the Muslims in India are absolutely safe and it is Pakistan that is oppressing the members of the minority community in their country, which is evidenced by this migration in violation of the Nehru-Liaquat Pact?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** Yes. This is also obvious from the statement I have made.

**Shri Hem Barua:** No, it has not been replied to. He says it is obvious. I put a specific question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The first point is that this is a violation of the Nehru-Liaquat Pact and whether this fact has been brought to their notice.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Muslims are safe here.

**Mr. Speaker:** The second is that it is not the minorities in India which are suffering or discriminated against but rather in Pakistan that it is being done.

**The Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** I do not know; I rather doubt if mention was made of the Nehru-Liaquat Pact in our reply. But the facts appear to be that ever since some illegal immigrants into Assam from East Pakistan were sent back by the Assam Government, the people there in those areas, the authorities there, have reacted by bringing great pressure to bear on some Hindus who

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are living there, which has resulted in this kind of thing.

12.17 hrs

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**EIGHTEENTH REPORT**

**Shri Krishnamoorthy Rao** (Shimoga): I beg to present the Eighteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

**STATEMENT BY A MEMBER AND MINISTER**

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy** (Kendrapara): Sir, you would remember that the other day when the Home Minister made some baseless charges against our Party, and when we challenged him, he promised to see me and give me such particulars as he had with him. You then observed that you would take a decision in the matter after hearing from us. Immediately on that very day, I wrote to the Home Minister asking him whether I could meet him in the course of the day or the day following. I received a letter from him saying that since yesterday was a holiday, he would look into the papers today and would meet me tomorrow.

This is a matter of great concern. As you know, we feel and think that the privilege of the House requires that either the charges should be withdrawn or the documents that he has in proof of the allegations should be laid on the Table of the House. I hope that when we meet we would probably be able to deal with that. We would then seek your guidance in the matter. But there has been some delay on account of a holiday coming in between.

**Shri Tyagi** (Dehra Dun): That is enough.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not know if the hon. Home Minister would like to say anything.

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** I have nothing to add. I got his letter—it may have been sent on the 1st—yesterday and immediately I wrote to Shri Dwivedy that as the office was closed, I would look into the papers today and would meet him tomorrow and tell him whatever facts are with me.

**Mr. Speaker:** This is a matter on which Members are feeling very much exercised. Therefore, it is desirable that it should be done as early as possible.

12.19 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS\*—contd.**

**MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION—ed.**

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now proceed with further discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation, together with the cut motions moved.

Shri Mohan Swarup may continue his speech.

**श्री मोहन स्वर्ण (पीलीभीत):** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं परसों यह अर्ज कर रहा था कि ठेकेदारी प्रथा को समाप्त होना चाहिए क्योंकि यह भ्रष्टाचार के लिए जिम्मेवार है। मैंने अर्ज किया था कि कास्ट्रक्शन सोसाइटीज बननी चाहिए और उनके द्वारा काम होना चाहिए। इसी के साथ साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो पी० डब्ल्यू० डी० में ग्राइंट रेट्स और परसेंटेज रेट्स का तरीका है उसको समाप्त किया जाए और लम्प सम काम देने की प्रणाली को अपनाया जाए। मेरे सामने

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.