

killed in Malda there are not only Muslims but also Hindus and the number of the latter is roughly five. Is it not a fact that the figures given by the Prime Minister are only of the Muslims alone?

Shri Badrudduja: May I know..

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, Shrimati Renuka Ray says that in the number of persons killed in Malda there were Hindus also and that they were not all Muslims.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; as far as I know, 14 persons who lost their lives in Malda were Muslims of which nine lost it on the Holi day, that is, on the 22nd March, and five more on the 16th to the 20th April. The nine persons included five or six who got burnt by the roof falling on them and killed by that. I do not think in this number there is any Hindu.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Berhampur): May I ask....

Mr. Speaker: No regular discussion can take place.

An Hon. Member: But questions can be allowed.

Mr. Speaker: Two or three questions are sufficient.

12.16 hrs.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY—contd.

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

The hon. Minister.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have taken part in the debate and for the kind observations that they have made about me and the work done by me in the Ministry of Rehabilitation. During the course of the debate a number of suggestions have been made. Some of them are of a constructive nature and I propose to have each suggestion fully examined.

My two valued colleagues, Shri Purnendu Naskar and Shri Jaganatha Rao intervened in the debate and covered a number of those points. It is quite likely that some may still remain over and during the time that is at my disposal I may not be able to dispose of all of them.

Some hon. Members made rather uncharitable observations about the Ministry of Rehabilitation. One of them went to the length of remarking that the Ministry had been truncated. Some one else went to the length of saying that it had been downgraded. If I remember correctly, the hon. Member opposite even accused the Government of shirking responsibility or of refusing to accept responsibility.

With a view to fully appreciate the problem we have to go back to the unfortunate year 1947—fortunate in one way in that our country became free and unfortunate in the sense that about 10 million people from Pakistan, both East and West, had to leave their hearth and home and come for shelter, relief and rehabilitation to India. I do not think any country in the world has been faced with such a gigantic problem. I also make bold to say that there is no country in the world which having been faced with refugee problem, though of a much smaller dimension, had to meet

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

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all the expenses from its Central or General Revenues and the taxpayer of the country had to pay for that. This country has spent nearly Rs. 400 crores on the relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons and every penny of it has been found from the General Revenues.

In those unfortunate days when this mass of suffering humanity was coming across the border the Ministry of Rehabilitation was set up. It was set up with a view to meet an emergency. Again, though there are permanent ministries of the Government of India at the Centre which deal with the subjects, like, housing, agriculture, training, medical relief, education etc., a special Ministry was set up in which all these functions of the various permanent ministries of the Government of India were centralised so that the work of rehabilitation could be carried on with human sympathy and expedition. That was in the year 1947-48. Since then, I have just now stated, 14 years have elapsed.

In the case of the Western region, the relief aspect was completed within a year or two of partition because there was mass exodus. There was more or less an exchange of population. You might as well say there was a two-way traffic.

Then we went on to rehabilitation, and from rehabilitation we ultimately went to the compensation scheme which has also been completed. So the work in the Western Region has shrunk and dwindled practically to an extent that it is now only a small bit of the problem and there is hardly any work left in regard to the rehabilitation of displaced persons from West Pakistan.

The position in the Eastern Region, I admit, is not the same. There, migration has taken place in spurts. The first spurt came in 1946-47. Then came the second spurt in 1950 which

brought the Nehru-Liaquat Pact. And the third spurt was in 1955-56. And during all this period nearly 42 lakhs displaced persons have come from East Pakistan.

We are a secular State; we are proud of the fact that we work on a system or a basis where a member of the minority community is considered to be a national of this country and enjoys the same status as any member of the majority community. That is our ideology, that is our programme, that is our heritage, that is our tradition, that is what we have inherited from Bapu.

But the result was that while under the Nehru-Liaquat Pact, so far as those who had gone away to Pakistan from West Bengal, Assam or Tripura were concerned, we invited them and they came back, and not only did we restore to them their houses and their property but we gave them also large grants with a view to see that they are rehabilitated, the result, however, on the other side was quite different. While not many Hindus went back from India to Pakistan, but on top of it, as I have stated just now, at the time of the Nehru-Liaquat Pact we had nearly 25 lakhs Hindus with us, and during the period 1950 to 1957 another 17 lakhs came, making a total of over 42 lakhs. That was the position.

Bengal was saturated, truncated. Two-thirds of Bengal went to East Pakistan, one-third remained with us. Though the lands remained in East Pakistan, a big population came on this side. And the result was that there have been serious difficulties in the matter of rehabilitation. We have not got any evacuee property law there. We have no evacuee property. And as such, we had to start everything from a scratch and build it up in a State which, as I pointed out, was saturated and where the density of population, I believe, is the highest, and unemployment the acutest.

So, the results there have not been so appreciable, or we have not been able to achieve the same amount of success as we have had in the Western Region.

It was with this end in view that we opened a big project called the Dandakaranya project. A large number of our friends from the camps are going to Dandakaranya, and I am hoping that a still larger number would go, so that they can be rehabilitated. About six months ago we had an appreciation of the residuary problem in the Eastern Region. I discussed the problem myself with the State Government of Orissa, the State Government of Assam, the Administration of Tripura and the State Government of West Bengal. We found that whereas by far in Assam, Tripura, Bihar and Orissa, the problem had largely been resolved, still something—or you might even call a substantial portion—remained to be done in West Bengal. But, the work had shrunk to an extent where it did not require the whole time attention either of a Minister or a Secretary or a full fledged Ministry. I am only repeating when I say that in the beginning, we had to deal with relief. We are no longer dealing with relief now. All the camps in West Bengal or in the eastern region where as many as 10 lakhs of persons went into the camps—every single camp in the eastern region has been closed. We have spent nearly Rs. 55 to 60 crores on giving relief to these persons. There are no camps now. Similarly, as regards the Bainanama scheme, though my friends opposite may disagree with me, I have not got one single bainanama application pending in the Theatre Road Branch of my Ministry. All the applications received—the doors were open till 1959—thousands of applications were received and disposed of. The work had shrunk. With that in view, we decided, that, instead of having a full-fledged Ministry, to a new Ministry which the Prime Minister may deem advisable, the work of this Ministry

should be attached. So, it has been decided that the new Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply will have two departments: (i) Department of Rehabilitation and (ii) the department of Works, Housing and Supply. With a view to inform the House that it is the intention of the Government—and it has been throughout the intention of the Government—that the work that was being done should be carried on, the continuity should be maintained and what remains to be done in the eastern region should be completed, I, on the 26th March, 1962, that is, nearly two or three weeks before the new Ministry was formed, wrote a letter to Dr. B. C. Roy, on behalf of the Government of India. With your permission, I would like to read this letter.

“For some time past, we in the Government of India have been feeling that the residuary work in the Ministry of Rehabilitation was not sufficient to justify the continuance of a full-fledged independent Ministry to do the work. As you know, the work relating to the rehabilitation of displaced persons in the western sector has for all practical purposes been completed. So far as the eastern sector is concerned, there has been very considerable progress. The camps in the eastern sector have all been closed and there is an overall agreement between us and the States in the eastern sector regarding the nature and extent of the residuary work remaining to be done. No doubt, this work will take two to three years to be completed, but it would be of a nature not requiring many complicated decisions on matters of policy. Dandakaranya also is now functioning smoothly and the Authority has been clothed with wide power.

All these factors were recently examined by the Cabinet and it has been decided that in the new Government at the Centre, the Ministry of Rehabilitation should

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cases to exist as a separate entity. This, however,—I am repeating—does not mean that the Ministry will be dismembered and its work distributed to other Ministries of the Government of India. What has been decided is that the work relating to the Ministry of Rehabilitation will as a piece be transferred to a permanent Ministry of the Government of India.

My object in writing to you in such detail is to assure you that there would be no interruption in the continuity of the work of the Ministry and we are anxious that the continuity of policy and direction in regard to the completion of residuary work of the Ministry should be maintained."

That should remove all doubts in the matter. There is a commitment on behalf of the Government of India. That decision was taken by the Cabinet and as the Minister in charge of the Ministry of Rehabilitation, I conveyed that decision to Dr. B. C. Roy.

In a lighter vein, I may say that rehabilitation, since the Partition, since I came to India, has been my first love. Though I am growing old, I am still trying to tell you that it shall remain my first love and I shall try to go on looking after this work, whatever the work is, subject of course, to the confidence of the Prime Minister, the work that is entrusted to me. On that score, I wish to assure all my friends in West Bengal that the continuity of the work and policy and direction shall be maintained.

Another remark that was made by Shri Bhattacharya. I am sorry he has left the House. He accused me of something . . .

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya (Raiganj): May I submit. I am here?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The other Bhattacharya. He accused me of something which really hurt me. He told me that we had been partial in the matter of rehabilitation of dis-

placed persons from East Pakistan. He implied that as I came from West Pakistan, I was a refugee from Peshawar or West Pakistan, we had given greater attention to rehabilitation of displaced persons from West Pakistan. This, I beg to submit, is entirely untrue and unfounded. And for making an assertion of that nature, I do not want to say anything which is not borne out by facts. Here is the summary of the report of the activities of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, (Department of Rehabilitation) for the year 1961-62. It shows on the last page that up to the end March, 1962, we have spent Rs. 192.44 crores on the rehabilitation of displaced persons from West Pakistan, and Rs. 185.64 crores on the rehabilitation of displaced persons from East Pakistan, making a total of Rs. 378.08 crores.

The budget provision for the year 1962-63 is also given on the same page. It is Rs. 2.56 crores for those from West Pakistan and Rs. 11.63 crores for those from East Pakistan, making a total of Rs. 195 crores in the first case, and Rs. 197.27 crores in the case of the displaced persons from East Pakistan.

Another important matter and a fact which must not be lost sight of is that the number of displaced persons who have come from East Pakistan is about 42 lakhs while that of the displaced persons who have come from West Pakistan is about 48 lakhs. On a per capita basis, it comes to Rs. 411 per capita in the case of the displaced persons from West Pakistan, and Rs. 479 in the case of displaced persons from East Pakistan. These are figures which cannot be challenged. These are authenticated records, and these records are available to every Member of Parliament. We are not sorry for the fact that we have spent more for the displaced persons from East Pakistan. The intention of the Government and its policy has been to take each case, consider it on merits and see that the person concerned is properly rehabilitated. We have

looked at the displaced person as a displaced person. We have not looked at them from a narrow angle as to whether they have come from the east or the west, whether they belong to one part of the community or another.

I do concede and I do admit that compensation has not been paid to the displaced persons from East Pakistan. But, for that too, I feel that I must make a reference to the pact between the two Prime Ministers of India, which was arrived at in the year 1950, called the Nehru-Liaquat Pact. Class V of that Pact says:

"Rights of ownership in or occupancy of the immovable property of a migrant shall not be disturbed."

Further, clause VI says:

"That in the case of a migrant who decides not to return, ownership of all his immovable property shall continue to vest in him and he shall have unrestricted right to dispose of it by sale, by exchange with an evacuee in the other country, or otherwise".

So, it is a clear provision in the Nehru-Liaquat Pact that those who stay back in East Pakistan have got the absolute right to hold on to their property, while in the case of those who came from west, it was a mass exodus. Muslims went from here, and Hindus came from the entire West Pakistan, or we may call it the Punjab, Rajasthan N.W.F. Province Sind, Khairpur, Bhawalpur and all those places. They were completely denuded of the Hindu population, and as such, the evacuee property law was promulgated.

But, in the eastern region, the position is entirely the reverse. We still have there a large number of Hindus you may call them Pakistani nationals; but the fact remains that there are about a crore of them in East Pakis-

tan today. The number previously was about 80 to 90 lakhs. With the growth of population, it might be more now. As my hon. friend Shri P. S. Naskar remarked the other day, there is no birth-control there, and as such, the population there may be about a crore.

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): The figure was 110 lakhs according to the 1961 census.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I thank my hon. friend for this information. I crore and 10 lakhs are there. They are holding on to their property. Their property cannot be declared evacuee. My hon. friend, Shri A. C. Guha, will bear me out—I am grateful for all the co-operation that he has given during all the years—that there is a splitting up of the families. Some members of families are still there who are holding on to their property in East Pakistan while some are in India and have taken rehabilitation benefits here. So there can be no question of the promulgation of an evacuee property ordinance under which the properties of people—Shri Badrudduja may be one of them—if they were evacuee property could be taken over. If there was such a law, perhaps his property in Malda would have been declared evacuee property.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: He has no property in Malda.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: He may have no property in Malda. But I know for a fact that a former Chief Minister of Bengal who died in Dacca not long ago owned property in India. I know that some of the big tea magnates own property in India. They are living in Pakistan and they are not very good friends of our country. We have not declared their property evacuee.

So the fact remains that the conditions are different. In the one case there was a wholesale exodus. Evacuee property law was promulgated

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and as such, we took over the evacuee property that came into our possession. Compensation was given. That is not the position in this case.

An hon. Member sitting opposite accused me, I must say his remarks were very very uncharitable, I do not want to say; I do not know whether it is parliamentary or not, but it looks as if it is a case of everything looking yellow to a jaundiced eye. Referring to the residuary problems of non-camp DPs and remission of loans, he event went to the length of saying that we had totally ignored the non-camp DPs and had not looked after them; and as for camp DPs, because we wanted to save money, we wanted to stop doles, we looked after their rehabilitation, while the others were ignored. Being new, possibly he is not fully conversant with the Annual Reports of this Ministry. Here is the Annual Report for 1960-61 which says on page 15:

"Of the 22.75 lakh displaced persons who have received rehabilitation assistance so far, 6.60 lakhs were from camps and the remaining 16.15 lakhs from outside camps. Out of Rs. 77.35 crores spent on their rehabilitation, about Rs. 20.83 crores relate to expenditure on camp inmates and the remaining Rs. 56.52 crores to expenditure on displaced persons outside camps".

The proportion is quite correct, 3 to 1. 10.25 lakh displaced persons out of 42 lakhs who came from Pakistan went into camps. Similarly in this Report, it is reflected that on rehabilitation we have not favoured a person living in camp as a favoured child and a person in the non-camp category as a step-child. That has never been the policy of the Government of India. Whatever money has been spent on relief, has nothing to do with rehabilitation. Loans are loans, and when we give relief, it is totally relief. I might tell my hon.

friend that in the eastern region, losses on the loans that are given are one hundred per cent the losses of the Government of India. Relief expenditure, one hundred per cent, is borne by the Government of India. All the relief expenditure in the districts and in the various camps is also borne by the Government of India. So if I wanted, I could have stopped these doles. But we have never done that. If I had received co-operation from some of my friends and this problem had not been converted into a political problem—this is unfortunate.—perhaps much better results could have been achieved. The only exception or solitary instance in the Government of India which you can find where the headquarters of a Minister at the Centre was not at Delhi but outside was that of myself. I went to Calcutta, and stayed there for seven years, so that I could be useful to my unfortunate brethren, and I am happy to say that I have received full co-operation from all responsible quarters, and as my friend Shri Naskar mentioned the other day, even the results of the present election have clearly indicated that the refugees can no longer be treated as pawns in a political game, that they will be going to Dandakaranya and they will be rehabilitated.

One or two more observations, and Ministry It has been suggested that the loans should be remitted. My hon. friend Shri Guha was the first to write to me. Then came Shri Chatterjee and then others. At the same time, a demand has been made upon me that the residuary problem in West Bengal should be resolved. And a third request is that the non-camp displaced persons should be taken to Dandakaranya. I want the House to appreciate all these three things. I admit and concede that there is a section of the refugee population in West Bengal which has not been fully rehabilitated. It is partially rehabilitated. If a man is partially rehabilitated,

I accept it as part of my obligation and duty as Minister of the Government of India that I have to see that he is rehabilitated. Now I want to be told whether he is to be rehabilitated in Dandakaranya or in West Bengal. Money as I said just now, is found by the Government of India. The entire administrative expenses are also borne by us. It is not material to me whether a refugee from East Pakistan is rehabilitated within West Bengal itself or in Dandakaranya, because the money shall be found by me, but the same person cannot be rehabilitated in both the places. There is a residuary problem, and it has been assessed in terms of money. The money is there. I want to be told whether the partially rehabilitated persons would like to be rehabilitated in West Bengal itself or they would like to be rehabilitated in Dandakaranya. And what I have been able to gather all these years is this. Even those displaced persons who were in camps, who had been totally fed by the Government of India on doles, refused to go to Dandakaranya. Only 5,000 families of all the lakhs of persons who were in camps have gone to Dandakaranya with all the persuasion and pressure. Therefore, my feeling is that not many displaced persons who are partially rehabilitated would like to go to Dandakaranya. They would like to be rehabilitated in West Bengal itself. They have taken roots there partly; that is conceded and admitted. Now, a man would not like after ten or twelve years to be completely uprooted, leave West Bengal, and go to Dandakaranya. At least, that is my experience, but if there are some who are partially rehabilitated, who are prepared to surrender all the rehabilitation rights that they have acquired up till now and want to go to Dandakaranya, we can consider their cases. But one thing has to be remembered, that Dandakaranya is an entirely agricultural colony. We are only reclaiming land and settling people on land. Now if I am told that the urban part of the partially rehabilitated persons

should be taken to Dandakaranya, there is no scope for their rehabilitation.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya (Seyampore): May I ask a question?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: You can ask everything when I have finished. I never interrupted him. I will answer all his questions later. I am not giving way.

Mr. Speaker: Let the Minister finish his speech. He is not yielding. The hon. Member can wait.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: But as soon as he finishes, he goes away.

Mr. Speaker: I am here.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As I remarked, I never shirked responsibility in Calcutta and lived there for seven years; in spite of the procession, funeral and otherwise that were taken out, I stuck to my post, and I am not going to leave this post. I shall not leave any relevant question that is asked unanswered. I shall answer that.

I come to this contradiction in terms. Remit all the loans. The same person should be rehabilitated in Dandakaranya. Give us money to rehabilitate that person in West Bengal because he is partially rehabilitated. Also remit his loans.

If I have to remit the loans of all those persons who have been given loans—they run into many crores—I can consider that aspect of the matter. But, having converted the loan into a grant, it must be clearly understood that there can be no further loans. Seventy or eighty crores of rupees have been given as loans up till now. If the demand is that these loans should be converted into grants, it should be clearly understood that no further loans will be advanced because every penny that I give today as a loan will have to be converted

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into a grant. That is a categorical statement I wish to make.

I concede that there is the problem of the partially rehabilitated in West Bengal. I also concede that they should be rehabilitated. But I cannot accept this position that they should be rehabilitated both in West Bengal, as part of the residuary problem, and should also be taken to Dandakaranya and given fresh loans land, etc. and also that the loans that have been given up till now should be remitted.

Shri Biren Dutta (Tripura West): What about the loans in Tripura and Assam?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The trouble about my hon. friend is that he does not know that I am not dealing with Tripura any longer. It is part of the Ministry of Home Affairs. As regards Assam, if he would only confine his remarks to Bengal and not create trouble for me here I would be further grateful. I am looking after the Bengalis in Assam. They like me and they are grateful to me. The only thing I want from him and his party men is to leave Assam Bengalis to me and deal with Bengal Bengalis who are living in West Bengal.

A number of Members have made very moving references, to our unfortunate brothers who have stayed behind in East Pakistan and their number is very large. There, I find there is a common ground on this side of the House and on the other side. Where human suffering is concerned, as my friend, Shri Dinen Bhattacharya said, we have no barriers. We are a Government and we want to deal with this human problem in a humane manner. And, if this Government can find Rs. 400 crores up till now for the rehabilitation of displaced persons, there can be no question of not considering the cases of those

unfortunate people who may have to come on this side of the border.

But, certain facts have to be taken into consideration. As I said not long ago, on account of the Nehru-Liaquat Pact, while all our Mulsim friends came back, the Hindus did not go back to East Pakistan. And on top of it, another 17 lakhs came, making a total of 42 lakhs. When this problem became very acute and during the two preceding years before this decision in 1957 was taken, as many as 6 lakh displaced persons came out of East Pakistan, in the years 1955 and 1956. I myself went there. I talked to my old friends and all of them, but with hardly any success.

Then we held a Conference in Darjeeling; and the date of the conference is 31st October, 1957. To that conference all the affected States were invited—Assam, Tripura, Bihar, U.P. Bombay etc. and also the State of West Bengal. And the State of West Bengal was represented by three Ministers, Shri P. C. Sen, Shri T. K. Ghosh and Smt. P. Mukerjee. In that conference we very carefully examined all aspects of this vexed problem. This decision is given in the report of this Ministry for the year 1957-58 and with your permission, Sir, I would just like to read it. It is on page 6.

"Future Migrants: Taking into consideration the size of the remaining problem of the rehabilitation of displaced persons from East Pakistan who had already migrated, and the limited resources, population congestion and the prevailing unemployment in the States, the Ministers assembled at the Darjeeling Conference were led to examine the policy that should be adopted in regard to the future migrants from East Pakistan. It was unanimously felt that the existing resources of the country would have to be stretched to the utmost before the displaced persons already in India could be effectively rehabilitated. It was therefore, in the interest

of the existing displaced persons themselves that the available resources were directed solely towards providing rehabilitation assistance to them. To achieve this objective, it was considered necessary that the present size of the problem should not be allowed to grow indefinitely, and that a date line should be fixed after which the fresh migrants should not be entitled to receive relief or rehabilitation assistance."

I had just stated that during the said two years as many as six lakh. Hindus were thrown out of East Pakistan and came to West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. We felt that a deadline should be fixed after which a fresh migrant cannot be entitled to receive relief or rehabilitation assistance. That has been our policy till now.

Unforauntely for us certain disturbing developments have taken place during the last one or two months and the Prime Minister has made a detailed statement about them in the House this morning. I do not wish to cover that ground again. I do feel sad and unhappy. If Pakistan were only to take a leaf out of this book of India, their attitude towards minorities would be quite different. You will forgive me if I digress a little. I am saying that because I want my words to reach Pakistan. What have we done here? In the year 1954, we took a decision unilaterally that the evacuee property law should be abrogated and after the 7th of April 1955, no new person or property about which a case was not then pending in a judicial court could be declared as an evacuee or evacuee property. We took that decision unilaterally. We had left property worth Rs. 500 crores there. The evacuee property here is not worth more than Rs. 100 crores. Our outlook and attitude is not money as in Pakistan; it has always been human consideration. We did it unilaterally. I may be wrong but though not many Hindus are left there,

the evacuee property law has not been abrogated in Pakistan.

Yesterday a new friend coming from Rajasthan, independent feels sore for the Meos; he has got every liberty to do so. He thinks of; Maulana Hifzur Rahman, not being present in the House.

Let me tell him that it is we and this Government who invited the Muslims from Uttar Pradesh who had gone away to Pakistan and restored them their property. In case of Meos I can make bold to say without any fear of contradiction that 25000 families of Meos were restored their property which had been declared as evacuee property. You talk of a few thousand acres here and there but you know that an Act was passed in this very House and under section 20A, there is a clear provision, and there are three courses open to me. If I can restore his original holding, I shall do that. If I am not in a position to restore the original holding to the evacuee under the general notification or under section 16, if I fail to do that or if I am not in a position to do so, then I can do it in one of the two ways: one way is to give him alternative holding and the other way is to give him cash; or to give him both. We have given land to 25,000 families may be lakhs of acres. Does the hon. Member mean to tell me that this Government would cringe for or grudge a few thousand acres? No; we shall never do that, I can still assure the hon. Member that if there are certain cases where orders have been passed and measures have not yet been taken by the Government of Rajasthan, let him bring to my notice those cases—I am prepared to look into each case.

Shri K. R. Gupta (Alwar): Certainly, I shall bring them to your notice.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Let him be patient. He is a new Member; I know perfectly well. I have given him full indulgence. I am quoting the

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figures and am making a statement as a responsible Minister. Tell me what is wrong. I am prepared to look into it. I have restored the property under Section 16 in 4,000 cases, worth nearly Rs. 3 crores or Rs. 4 crores. I have restored property to the Mussalmans, worth Rs. 10 crores. My attitude in life is, if I want money, if I want resources, I will go to Shri Jawaharlal Nehru for that. If he can give me Rs. 400 crores, he can give me also a few more crores. I am not going to disrupt any national of mine for the sake of implementing or augmenting the pool. I shall never do that. That pool belongs to the Government of India. It is a centralised pool. It is not a pool which I have brought from Peshawar! That compensation has to be paid, and the money has to be found by the Government of India. We are a secular State. It is not for me to say further. Perhaps, hon. Members from Rajasthan and other places are imbued with a certain policy or ideas. I have no grouse against them. If the secular aspect of this Constituion can be proved, it can be proved by the acts of this Ministry and if we had followed or walked in the footsteps of Pakistan the story in India would have been quite different. We do not walk in their footsteps. We shall follow the father of the nation—Gandhiji—and work along the lines that he laid. We may have failed, but please do not judge us by our mistakes. Judge us by the actions and the *bona fide* acts that this Ministry have done.

Shri K. R. Gupta rose—

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Do not get impatient. You telephoned this morning, but I had no time. I shall see you later.

Shri K. R. Gupta: What about non-claimant displaced persons and the Pattadars?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Let him be patient. He has come here for the

first time. I have nothing to hide. The record of this Government *vis a vis* rehabilitation is something which any man can be proud of, and if any proof was needed for it, I may say that I fought the elections on the issue of rehabilitation and I won with a thumping majority.

Now, I turn to the question regarding East Pakistan. This morning, I received a letter from Dr. B. C. Roy. He sent me a letter. I read it and I have shown it to the Prime Minister too. He also feels that something has got to be done for these unfortunate persons who are coming out of East Pakistan. I wish to make clear one or two points in this connection. We have every sympathy for them. As long as I hold charge of this Ministry, I shall do my utmost to see that in each and every deserving case, assistance is given. But, then, as I was just saying we must be careful to see that we give assistance only to those who come out to India through proper migration certificate. We have a very long border. I think it is about 750 miles long. It is not like the border which we had in Peshawar, where you had the Khyber Pass and all those things—an open border. There is one thing which I should like to state here. I am very keen that if any assistance is to be given, it should be given only in the case of those deserving persons who come on proper migration certificates. The next thing that I wish to state is that I am dead opposed to opening any new camps. That process of giving of doles should be over. It demoralises the person who takes it. The result is, as we have seen in Dandakaranya too, it took us as least a year or two before we could introduce that spirit of manhood which has been completely dissipated over his long and protracted stay in camps. So, my intention is that whatever assistance we give will be on an *ad hoc* basis to deserving persons. This is the most I can say at this stage, because we do not know what the position is and how many

persons are likely to come. We do not want to take a step which may aggravate the situation, but certainly we have to take into consideration all those deserving cases; where we find that there is distress, hunger and difficulty, we are thinking of giving assistance on an *ad hoc* basis

13 hrs.

The President of Pakistan and I come from the the same part of the country which is now called Pakistan. I lived 50 years of my life there and I have known the President of Pakistan personally. We have some such thing as the Pathan code of honour. Some of you who are acquainted with that code of honour will bear me out that it was the bounden duty of head of the tribe—the Malik or the Khan—to see that the life and property of the member of the minority community who was living in his territory or clan was fully protected. I am sorry that that is not being done in Pakistan today and I feel more sorry that this should be done during the regime of President Ayub, who calls himself a Pathan and who fully understands the implication of the Pathan code of honour. I wish Dr. Khan Sahib was alive today. He was a man who knew what the Pathan code of honour was? He was a man under whose regime Hindus, Sikhs, Christians or anybody felt as secure as any Muslim in that part of the country.

Shri A. C. Guha: He would not have been secure in Pakistan now, had he been alive?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Another great Pathan that the Frontier produced is now rotting in jail. He spent 14 years of his life in Jail when the British regime was there and after independence and the freedom of Pakistan, that great Pathan is still being confined to jail at Hyderabad. I wish President Ayub would take all these things into consideration and

realise that the policy he is pursuing, the policy of squeezing out the Hindus from East Pakistan is not going to pay him any dividends. I dread to think what the repercussions of such a narrow, communal and prejudiced policy can be, but I can only hope that wiser counsel will prevail and we shall not be called upon to shoulder any responsibility in the matter of rehabilitation of those unfortunate persons who are now living in Pakistan and are being asked to leave that country after 15 years of independence. That is something very shocking and disgusting.

I will spend a few minutes on the western region. You are from the west and I am from the west. The other day you told me that sometimes in my remarks, I was indulging in very light phrases about displaced persons from the western region.

Mr. Speaker: Pathans have their code of conduct.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: You are quite right. That is the reason why I apologised to you and made amends.

My friend there was getting very impatient. I stated that India is the only country, which was faced with the problem of rehabilitation of such a gigantic nature. We did not get a penny as aid from any one of the world organisations like the U.N.O. I have been associated with this Ministry for 14 years and I do not know their names even. We did not get any aid from any country. India again is the only country where compensation has been given for physical resources left in another country. There is no example in the world—I wish to be contradicted—where compensation has been paid for urban immovable property left in a country from which evacuees have come. There are cases of relief and rehabilitation, but what we did was, we have given compensation.

[Shri Mehr Chand Khanna]

The total number of compensation applications which were received is 5,04,061. The total number of applications disposed of till 1st May 1962 is 4,99,386. So, out of 5 lakhs, only 4600 applications remain to be disposed of today. I further submit that we have given compensation to the extent of Rs. 168.85 crores—by cash Rs. 59.56 crores, by transfer of property Rs. 84.64 crores and by adjustment of public dues Rs. 24.65 crores, making a total of Rs. 168.85 crores.

Another charge against me as that sale deeds are not being given. The total number of properties disposed of is 3,90,670 and the balance—in the matter of issue of sale deeds, etc.—is round about 60,000. It means that the cases of 3,30,000 have been disposed of. I do not want the House to get away with the impression that these 60,000 are all to my account. We have given the displaced persons the facility to pay the price by instalments and the period of instalments is 7 years from round about 1956. I cannot give him the sale deed or convey the property to him till he has paid all his dues. I wish the hon. Member who feels very greatly for them to advise them to pay their dues to me and I shall certainly see that the sale deeds are conveyed to them. But if he wants me to convey the sale deed for the property which still belongs to me and he has not paid dues, I am sorry I cannot be a party to that arrangement.

My friend, Shri Sham Lal Saraf, made some observations about displaced persons from Jammu and Kashmir. He further told me that firstly in the tribal raids and then ultimately in the police action and army action, there was a section of the population which had greatly suffered and they are on our side of the border. For example, I saw with my own eyes the tremendous devastation and havoc caused in Baramulla. So far as those persons are concerned, we have already sanctioned an advance of

Rs. 60 lakhs to the State Government. Though I had nothing to do with it, but feeling for those unfortunate people who were victims, first of the tribal raids and then—as we wanted to clear the area of the police action, we have placed an advance, to put it correctly, at the disposal of the State Government. As far as migrants of Jammu and Kashmir are concerned, their scheme was announced three or four years ago. That scheme is being implemented.

13.09 hrs.

[SHRI MULCHAND DUBE in the Chair]

I think the total financial implication of giving rehabilitation assistance to about 30,000 migrant families who have come from Pakistan-held areas of Jammu and Kashmir is going to be anything between Rs. 6 crores to Rs. 7 crores. That scheme is being implemented and I think about Rs. 1 crore has already been given either in the shape of grants or adjustments of their public dues to about 8000 or 10,000 families. That scheme is being implemented and there should be no difficulty.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, may I seek one clarification?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: If I give in to him, my hon. friends on the other side will feel sore about it. Therefore, I am not going to give in to him as well.

While summing up, I wish only to say to my friends from Bengal that the commitment made by the Government of India in the matter of the resolution of the refugee problem stands. The Dandakaranya scheme is being implemented and shall be implemented. As regards the new migrants, I have fully explained the position of the Government of India in that behalf.

Now I would like to come to my new love. I told you about my first love, that is the Ministry of Rehabilitation.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Sir, I would like to ask from the hon. Minister, while he is on the subject,...

Mr. Chairman: He can put his question after he has finished.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: The hon. Minister is taking up another subject. He has completed the subject of rehabilitation. I would only ask one question. With regard to the refugees from the Pak. occupied Jammu and Kashmir area, may I know what treatment will be given to them and whether they will be treated as refugees as such?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I was telling you just now, Sir, that I wanted to say a few words about my new love. I have been in this Ministry hardly seven weeks. I was appointed a Minister of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply on the 10th April, 1962 and today is only the 4th June, 1962. There is not much that I could say on this. Moreover, Shri Jagannatha Rao dealt with some of the important matters like housing schemes and others. So I shall confine my remarks only to one department which is called 'works'.

Hon. Members criticised this department mostly on the basis of corruption.

An Hon. Member: Inefficiency also.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Yes, in changing curtains and chairs and giving furniture to Members of Parliament. Sir, let me set the mind of Members of Parliament at rest to start with. Mine is a funny position. I did not know it till I became a Minister of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. There is pool for the Members of Parliament. Houses are

in that pool. Allotments are made by the Chairman of one Committee or the Chairman of the other Committee. The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply is neither a member of one Committee nor a member of the other Committee. Secondly I have placed certain houses at the disposal of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. Those houses are allotted by him in consultation, I believe, with the Leader of the House plus the Chairman and the Speaker. Again, I am not a member of that Committee. So, where the allotments are made they are either by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs or by the Chairman of the two Housing Committees. The Minister does not come into the picture anywhere.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Bhagalpur): There has been no complaint about allotments.

An Hon. Member: It is regarding services rendered.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Again how I wish I was a direct forum between the Members of Parliament and the Ministry. Nothing comes to me direct. The Housing Committee take note of the complaints. I do not know what decisions they take. Sometimes I receive a letter. But if the Members have some grouse or difficulty about their furniture or about such of those matters, I would beg of them, please write to me. I am prepared to look into each case. I am prepared to talk to them, because if I have to function in this sovereign democratic republic, unless I carry all these people with me I am doubtful whether my Grants will be passed next year. Therefore I want to be on the right side of hon. Members. Sir, I want to talk in a slightly serious vein. I am a landlord. I let out houses and furniture on rent. It is my duty to give the maximum possible satisfaction. I can certainly tell the House that the return that is given to me is not adequate. I can ask for a better return. There is no justification on the part of this Minis-

[Shri Mehr Chand Khanna]

try to be a Housing Ministry on the side and let houses, furniture and air-conditioners on rent where, I am told the furniture is shabby, and in case air-conditioners or air-coolers, the rents are very exorbitant, I propose to look into these matters.

I have received complaints from the Constitution House as well as from the Western Court.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): North and South Avenues also.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have been to the Constitution House. I have been to the Western Court also. Shri Jaganatha Rao went to the North and South Avenues yesterday. He came back with a rosy picture, but it does not appear to be so rosy as he tried to put it to me. But my idea is, I want to give an open invitation to all hon. Members, to all my colleagues.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: Make the bungalows as good as those of the Ministers.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: That will never happen. If every hon. Member—there are 750 of them—is to have a bungalow like that of a Minister, then you can jolly well tell the government servants to go and live somewhere else. Anyhow, the idea is to give you every possible convenience and comfort.

Shri K. R. Gupta: What about non-vacation of flats by ex-Members of Parliament? They do not vacate and we do not get.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Sir, may I proceed a little? I was just saying that I want to look into each case. I want to understand the problem. After having understood the problem, I am even prepared to have a general discussion with the Members from various parties. We can sit round a

table and look into all these points. I can explain to them my point of view and they can tell me their point of view. And, unless they have a certain amount of satisfaction that they are working under hygienic and good conditions, I feel, whether they are Ministers or Members, they cannot faithfully discharge their duty. I shall certainly look into that.

As regards Members who have gone and not vacated their houses, the only thing I can do is to take action against them. I am taking action against them. But there too I shall have to concede that I can go only up to a particular limit and no further. They were our colleagues here for a very long time, for five to ten years. Some of them want a little more time to make their arrangements. I do not think we should be unnecessarily hard on them.

An Hon. Member: It may happen to you.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Persuade them.

Shri K. R. Gupta: They do not reply to your notice even, what to speak of time.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: If I may be a little more blunt, Sir, I made 42 rooms—I would not like to be committed to the figure—in the Constitution House available for the new Members. But my information is that only 26 were taken by them and the remaining were not even occupied. We looked ahead.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: The Housing Department said that the Constitution House is more than fully occupied. I stand evidence for it. It has been repeatedly told by the Housing Department that the Constitution House has no vacancy.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am sorry. What my hon. friend is saying—I do not want to dispute—may be correct. But the information that

was given to me was quite contrary. I shall certainly look into this matter, whether the information that was given to me was the one that I have placed before the House, and if I made a mistake I will again come before the House and make amends. But if my memory does not fail me, what I saw was that a larger number of rooms in the Constitution House apprehending that some of the Members will not be in a position to vacate their houses, were placed at the disposal of Members and all of them were not utilised. Anyhow, it is rather an unfortunate position that some of us who thought would come never came back and others like me—may be flukes—have come back. Some of them who have not come have not vacated their houses. I will certainly look into it.

श्री राम सेवक यादव (काराबंकी) :

कुछ मंत्री भी ऐसे हैं जिन्होंने अपने बंगले खाली नहीं किए हैं।

श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना : जब तक मैं यहां बैठा हूं तब तक मंत्रियों के बंगले तो आपको मिल नहीं सकते। मेरे जाने के बाद जो कुछ हो। आप मंत्रियों को मेरे ऊपर छोड़ दीजिए।

श्री राम सेवक यादव : कुछ मंत्री हांलाकि चुनाव में हार गये हैं लेकिन अभी तक सरकारी बंगलों पर कब्जा किये हुए हैं। उन से यह बंगले खाली क्यों नहीं कराये जा रहे हैं ?

श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना : मेरी बिरादरी की बात छोड़ो, तुम अपनी बिरादरी की परवाह करो।

श्री याशपाल सिंह (कराना) : सैकुलर स्टेट में यह बिरादरी कहाँ आ गयी ?

श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना : आप तो राजस्थान से आ रहे हैं।

श्री याशपाल सिंह : मैं मुजफ्फरनगर से आया हूँ।

श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना : अरे आप तो स्वतंत्र हैं। आप ने क्या करना है। बस जाने दीजिये। मुझे आप क्या कहेंगे ? मैं तो आप का कुश्ता हूँ। मैं ने झंडा उठाया। मैं ने मुस्लिम लीग का मुकाबला किया, अंग्रेज का मुकाबला किया और शरणार्थी हो कर आया। इस देश को मैं सैकुलर न समझूंगा तो क्या आप समझेंगे ? मुझे तो लज्जा आती है जब मैं आप की तरफ के लोगों को हिन्दू राष्ट्र का नाम लेते सुनता हूँ। जाने दीजिये आप सैकुलरिज्म क्या समझेंगे

श्री रामसेवक यादव : कांग्रेस का भी क्या आप ने मुकाबला किया ?

श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना : मैं ने सब कुछ किया। मुझे तो खैर अकल आगई लेकिन तुम्हें इस तीस वर्ष में आधा तक अकल नहीं आई। अरे इधर आओ वहां रहने से कुछ नहीं बनेगा।

Let me go back to the Ministry Works.

Shri Prabhat Kar: He has taken too much time of M.Ps.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I was submitting before the House....

श्री याशपाल सिंह : हम भी बादशाह खां के साथ जेल में रहे हैं। हमेशा अंग्रेज के मुखालिफ रहे हैं।

श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना : यह तो नजर आ रहा है, जहां बैठे हैं।

श्री याशपाल सिंह : जब हम जेल में थे तब आप रुपया कमाते थे।

श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना : जब मैं मुस्लिम लीग की जेल में था तब आप हिन्दुस्तान का बंटवारा कर रहे थे। अब इस में ज्यादा बातें करने से क्या फायदा है मैं जानता हूँ कि आप बड़े बहादुर हैं और नजर भी आ रहा है आप बड़े बहादुर हैं। है

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. Let there not be any cross-discussion like this.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I would like to say a few words about the Public Works Department of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. I was submitting that allegations were made that there is corruption in this Department. For me, to say that there is no corruption in this Department would be entirely wrong. What I have seen, having been in close touch with the administration all these years, is that corruption is now more or less a comparative term.

Shri Mahida (Anand): Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The Speaker had given a ruling that hon. Members should not approach him while he is in the Chair. What I find is that this rule is ordinarily observed only when the Speaker is in the Chair. The moment the Deputy-Speaker or the Chairman occupies the Chair, lots of hon. Members approach him for consultations. I think this is not in keeping with the dignity of the House, which should always be maintained, and the rules of the House should be observed by all Members, irrespective of whether the Speaker is presiding or the Deputy-Speaker or the Chairman is presiding. Nobody should approach them when they are presiding.

Mr. Chairman: I think it is more a question of convenience than a question of ruling. If everybody tries to approach the Chair in that way, the Chair will be in difficulties. So, this suggestion has been made which is convenient to the Chair.

Shri Rameshwar Sahu (Rosera): I am a whip.

Mr. Chairman: His being a whip makes no difference to the position.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The Public Works Department is a very big department, spread all over India, handling a very large volume of work. But I do not know whether it would be correct for me to call it the "Central Public Works Department". To me it looks a little mis-

nomer in the sense that I find, within a few days of my taking over, that the P & T have their own organisation. They have taken the staff from me and in the matter of construction they have nothing in common with the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply; they are quite independent of us. The same is the case with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. They have taken over an Additional Chief Engineer from me, but they have their own construction programme which is being implemented by them. In the case of the Ministry of Home Affairs—Shri Datar is here and he would not be able to contradict me—whether it is Manipur or Tripura, or other areas which are Centrally administered, though the staff is mine, I have got nothing to do with them, the controlling agency being the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): That is quite right.

Shri Heda (Nizamabad): I think that is better.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: So, when we talk of corruption, I want that they should also share a lit bit of the bouquets that have been showered on the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply.

Shri Heda: They do.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: But talking in a serious vein, I feel that unless we exercise strict supervision, we are not going to achieve that, whether in the matter of the implementation of our construction programme, or in bringing down the so-called inefficiency, or the element of corruption which has crept into this organisation.

Suppose I have a construction programme in Calcutta. My Additional Chief Engineer, who is directly under me, goes there. Suppose Shri Patil

has a programme there; his Additional Chief Engineer goes there. Similarly, if Shri Jagjivan Ram has a programme of building a post office, his Chief Engineer goes there. Likewise, in the Centrally administered areas, there is a tremendous amount of overlapping and lack of supervision, which is an essential prerequisite to a big organisation of this nature. I have written to all my three colleagues, drawing the attention of their respective departments to this state of affairs, which is introducing an element of competition between various Ministries of the Government of India. Then, although there are six or seven Additional Chief Engineers, the headquarters of every Additional Chief Engineer is Delhi. A work may be carried on in NEFA, may be a border road, or may be some work in Madras or Bombay, the head offices of the Chief Engineer and the Additional Chief Engineers are in Delhi. And the reason given is proper co-ordination with the Ministry concerned. So, for the purpose of co-ordination, even though the work may be in NEFA, the man must be here!

I do not know how far I shall succeed, but I have written to my colleagues that we should do a certain amount of zonalisation, we should divide India into different zones and, taking the load of work of each Ministry, post an Additional Chief Engineer so that he is in charge of that particular zone and he looks after the construction programme in that zone. Now, for example, if there is a dispute between us and the contractor who is living in Calcutta, must probably he has to come all the way to Delhi to settle it. So, considering all these things, I feel that it will be conducive to better supervision if all the work which is handled by the various Ministries of the Government of India, in some cases quite independent of the C.P.W.D. and the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, is done on a zonal basis. So, the whole of India should be zonalised

ed or decentralised in the sense that we should post these Additional Chief Engineers at particular points so that they can look after the implementation of the construction programme.

Secondly, I find that our architects, whom we call by the name "design organisation", are not very happy with us. I had talks with them and they have told me very plainly that whether it is in the case of emoluments, or productive work, or introducing that element of humanism in the house that we are building, they have not got the same amount of say that they would like to have.

I do not know how far it is correct, but I do feel that if my architects are to be satisfied, they have to be given a certain status and they also have to be shouldered with a certain amount of responsibility. I do not feel that they should be quite independent of the Chief Engineer. They have to be under the Chief Engineer. That is my present day thinking. But I feel and I want that this design organisation which we might convert into a Central Design Organisation should be properly staffed, strengthened and shouldered with a certain amount of responsibility in the production of our plans and should also be associated with the implementation of our construction programme.

I went and saw Dr. Khosla yesterday. Dr. Khosla is one of our very eminent engineers. He is a member of the Planning Commission. I told him that I am a layman and do not want to misjudge either my architects or my engineers. They have done tremendous good work. All these buildings are very fine buildings. The museum is a beautiful production. Vigyan Bhavan is a very fine building. Similarly, we have put up a large number of good buildings and we have also put up bad buildings. But then if the Ministry of Finance would insist that the plinth area of a house must be 345 square

[Shri Mehr Chand Khanna]

feet and not 370 square feet, and you must sell your valuable lands in the vicinity of Connaught Place and Gole Market to the public so that we can make money and shunt all these people out, I do not think we would be justified in entirely blaming the engineering department because the engineering department can only produce what it is required to produce.

MPs. want a hostel. I have looked into the plans. MPs. want an auditorium. MPs. want a swimming pool. The officers of the Ministry of Finance are not agreeable to them.

An Hon. Member: There is no time for swimming.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: They say that the capital cost must be reflected in their rents. If 750 MPs are going to make use of that auditorium, it may be considered a necessity. It will be quite wrong to saddle those few MPs. who will use the Hotel with the capital cost which will be reflected in the shape of rent.

I was saying that I want my Central Design Organisation to be strengthened. I had the advice of Dr. Khosla yesterday. He assured me that he is going to look into all these matters. He is going to send for the Chief Engineer for whom both he and I have very great regard. I have known the Chief Engineer of the CPWD for a very long time. I make bold to say that he is a very honest, capable and efficient man. He has done very good work. Now it is very difficult for me to say that every officer under him is a very honest officer and that there is no element of corruption in the CPWD; otherwise, there will be no need for a Vigilance Department and the SPE of my senior colleague, the hon. Mome Minister. We do send them cases.

Similarly, one or two more things that I wish to do are these. We have a CTE. Technical examination of works

is done by an officer of ours. He was appointed about four years ago. Again, he is a very good officer. But the amount of work that he has done during the last three or four years, in terms of money, comes to a few lakhs of rupees, maybe, Rs. 20 lakhs or Rs. 25 lakhs. During the same four years we may have undertaken construction programme to the extent of, say, Rs. 60 crores to Rs. 80 crores. So, if there is going to be any effective check, that organisation has also to be strengthened.

The rules are very old. These rules were framed a long time ago. I am told that we are still working on the 1955 rules. I feel the rules have to be revised. I also feel that whatever the procedure is for making payments that procedure should be simplified. Complaints have been made to me that contractors are not paid their bills in time. I know of cases—there are hundreds of them pending in my Ministry—where works were executed four or five years ago and they are a subject of arbitration between a special officer of my Ministry and the contractor. If these cases are not settled over years and payments are not made, where is the contractor going to get the money? The only person who can bring the money is Government. So, we suffer. Our rates go up. I am told in one of the reports that in certain places tenders were called for once, twice, six times and no contractor was coming forward. I have to look into it and find out why contractors are not coming forward. What is wrong? Is there some inherent wrong in my organisation? Is the system bad or are the rules such that they are no longer required? They might have been all right ten or fifteen years ago. What responsibility has to be fixed on the Additional Chief Engineer and how is he going to discharge that responsibility?

Then I also feel that there are organisations which have to be encouraged. I will give you one or two ins-

tances. We have set up an organisation called by the name of National Building Construction Corporation or NBCC. They are handling works all over India, but the trouble is, as they have reported it to me, that unless they are given a certain amount of free hand that organisation cannot work efficiently because if there is going to be the responsibility of the Chief Engineer, certainly he has to look to it that certain codal formalities are discharged and the technical requirements of the projects are fully met. The other man who does the work says, "I am qualified; I have got qualified men with me but there is too much of interference." I feel that if I have a technical man as the head of the NBCC and if that is also the advice that is given to me by Dr. Khosla, most of my difficulties will be over.

Somewhat I want to encourage organisations like the Bharat Sewak Samaj who have been doing a lot of work. The idea is to introduce an element of new contractors into this old machinery where certain vested interests have been created so that we can break through them and also break the monopoly of the contractors.

So, as I was submitting, it is a big organisation. It is a very department spread all over India. I am glad the hon. Home Minister is here now. If he wants that work should be done in an efficient manner, if we all desire that there should be strict supervision and efficiency, I suggest to him also—he was not here when I was speaking on this subject—that we should have effective control on our Additional Chief Engineers appointed in the different zones all over India.

One more word and I have finished. I have already taken a very long time of the House. It is about accommodation and *jhuggi-jhonpries*. About accommodation a number of questions have been asked in the House. The number of units that I have at my disposal are only 30,000. My requirements are 90,000.

An Hon. Member: In Delhi?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I Delhi alone. The construction programme has not kept pace with the expanding Government of India and the requirements of the Government servants. The result is that there is a constant pressure upon the Director of Estates and the unfortunate Minister and his two colleagues. We get a very large number of letters every day for making out-of-turn allotments or for making allotments on a high-priority basis. I think, that is only a palliative, that is, if I shift a man from Vinaya Nagar and bring him to Lodi Colony or if I step him up or step him down. The real solution of the problem lies in stepping up our construction programme. I am hoping that about 7,000 residential units would be ready during this year. We are going to sanction another 10,000 units. They will not be ready this year or the next year, but the attempt is to increase and step up our construction programme so that the deficiency that is there, whether it is in Delhi or in Calcutta or in Bombay is adequately met. Because, till we give houses to these government servants who have been waiting in the queue for the last ten or fifteen years, this pressure upon the Ministry for making out-of-turn allotments shall be there, and has to be there.

The same is my position about office accommodation. My requirements are 45 lakh square feet in Delhi. I have only 40 lakh square feet, and of them more than fifty per cent are in old hutments that were built during the war. The result is, that there is, again, a constant pressure upon us to find accommodation for my colleagues and for various organisations. To a large number of organisations—whether it is an Indo-China, Indo-America or Indo-Africa organisation—we have given accommodation which was meant entirely for government offices. They all start with "Indo—" and end up with some country, and the result is that allotments have been made. I do

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not want to cancel those allotments. But I know that if I have to draw a line, I cannot give any more allotment, because I have nothing to offer. In that respect too I feel we shall have to step up our construction programme.

Two more things and I have done, so that the office of the Director of Estates, which is so much harassed, will neither get bouquets from M.Ps. nor anything from outside. But I am not going to allow, except in very rare or in exceptional circumstances, out-of-turn allotment. I have decided that except in a case of serious illness either of the government servant or his wife or his son, no out-of-turn allotment shall be made.

Similarly, in the matter of the allotment of shops there is a persistent demand from government servants in the various colonies that we should help them in setting up consumer co-operatives. I have decided that in respect of every shop that falls vacant in the government servants' colonies, a reference will be made to the Ministry of Home Affairs, and if the Chief Welfare Officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs has to recommend anybody or any organisation in that colony of government servants, they shall have the first priority in the matter of allotment. Otherwise we might make an allotment to those who are squatters on the road-side and are eligible.

Yesterday there was a big demonstration outside the residence of the Home Minister. And they were kind enough to come to me, at about quarter past two when I was intending to have my Sunday sleep so that I could be ready for the onslaught in the House today. I was disturbed. I saw them and I talked to them. Unfortunately, what had been happening in Delhi—I am the cause for it, my refugee friends are the cause for it—one thing we we did in Delhi in those days was 'unauthorised squatting'. And my sister Shrimati Renuka Ray would

also bear me out that that has happened in West Bengal too, unauthorised squatting.

Shri Renuka Ray (Malda): Since the hon. Minister has referred to me, I do not think the matter has been properly dealt with in West Bengal.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am not saying so.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Due to Central assistance not being given, in time.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Quite right. And there is one thing about the Centre—we are always at fault!

But I was referring to unauthorised squatting. Unauthorised squatting has taken place, and the main culprit is the refugee himself. That was the malady which started fourteen or fifteen years ago. And when the locals saw that the refugees could go and squat at any place and get away with it, they thought "why should we also not do the same thing?" And in Delhi we find there is a very large number of *jhuggi* and *jhompri-walahs*. At one time, when the census was taken, their number was round about 25,000. But now I am told that some were left out by mistake and that the number may be much larger. So what we have decided is—and I have done so in consultation with the Home Minister—we propose to have a proper census of all the *jhuggi* and *jhompri-walahs* in Delhi taken. That is number one. The second thing is, we are going to have a proper register where the photograph of every squatter is going to be affixed as we did in the case of the displaced persons. Thirdly, we will see that no one who comes beyond the crucial date, that is June-July 1960, is included in the matter of the allotment of any alternative accommodation. That is about the final date. If any one has been left out inadvertently and he is able to prove

and convince us and show us that he had been left out by mistake, we are prepared to include him. But I make bold to say, and say as a categorical policy statement of the Government of India, that anyone who has squatted after June-July 1960 or who is there now, we are not going to provide him with any alternative accommodation, and that person shall have to be evicted.

Even now the number is forty to fifty thousand. We shall need four thousand acres of land to provide them with plots. Then, our water resources, our sewage resources, our electrical resources in Delhi, they have already been strained to the maximum. Unless we give them developed plot and give them all the amenities which go with the developed plot, nothing can be done.

Again, we want to go one step further and see that in every colony there is integrated development. If there is a school needed, there shall be a school. If a hospital or a dispensary is to be set up, we shall see that there is a dispensary. If there is going to be a shopping centre, there shall be a shopping centre. So that, when we move these families we take them to an area, as we did in the case of the displaced persons, we take them into a colony or an area where they have all the necessary amenities.

Another thing we wish to do is this. That is, the clearance will be on a sector-wise basis. We take a sector, Neeti Marg or Bhairon Mandir, whatever the case may be, each sector shall be taken up and each sector shall be cleared. So I want to assure the House that as far as the Government of India is concerned, our approach in the matter of the *jhuggi* and *jhompri* *walahs* is going to be entirely human and sympathetic. But the policy that has been laid down, that policy shall be fully implemented and we cannot allow a larger number of squatters who may come forward now and start squatting and all that and take ad-

vantage of all the remaining land that may be there in Delhi today. Because, unless we conserve our lands, we will neither have houses for the government servants, nor offices, nor any other amenities that we wish to have, whether they are theatres or cultural centres. For that reason every inch of land has to be conserved in Delhi. But with regard to those who are living either in slums or in *jhuggis* or *jhompri* in Delhi, I wish to assure Shri Shiv Charan Gupta as well as Shri Naval Prabhakar who raised it the other day in the debate--and they were very keen about it--that our programme is that during the next three to four years we should be able to liquidate this problem.

In the very near future I want to call a meeting of the leading parties, the Corporation, the N.D.M.C., the Chief Commissioner, the M.P.s representing Delhi belonging to every party, to sit around the table and to unfold my plan to them and ask for their co-operation, so that this scheme or this proposal which is causing so much of anxiety to a large section of the population is properly implemented.

One word more and I shall finish. And it is this, that the implementation of the scheme is not done by the Government of India. The implementation of the scheme vests with the Corporation. We provide the funds, and we shall provide the funds to the extent that they are required under our scheme. But the implementation, as I said, is to be done by the Corporation. There too we can offer them our help. I can give them my good offices. The other day they wanted some engineering staff. I shall see that the staff is made available to them.

Sir, I am very grateful to the House for the kind attention it has given to has given to my Demands and for the constructive suggestions that Members have made. I have taken a very long time of the House, but I thought I would cover almost all the points as fully as I can. And, as I said in the-

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beginning, if some of the points I have not been able to cover, I request the House not to think for a moment that I am going to ignore them. I am going to have each point examined, and if a suggestion is of a nature which requires the attention of the Government, that attention shall be given and we will see that we profit by the constructive suggestions that Members have made.

I hope, Sir, that the Demands that have been placed before the House shall be unanimously passed.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: When the hon. Minister was giving the reply I put a question. At present in Sealdah in Calcutta thousands of refugees are still squatting. Recently, they have been asked to vacate. I have heard and it has also been reported in some papers that near about 700 of them have applied that they agree to go to Dandakaranya. Of these 700, it has been learnt that some are deserters from other provinces where they were rehabilitated earlier, some are new and some never approached the Rehabilitation Minister for any rehabilitation. What will be their fate?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Sealdah is not a new problem with us. Sealdah has been cleared twice before. This is the third time that I have been asked to clear Sealdah. At Sealdah, the population can be divided under two or three heads. There are locals; quite a large number of them. They are the responsibility of the State Government and not that of the Ministry of Rehabilitation. Then, there are families who have deserted from within the State of West Bengal. They can be taken back to the rehabilitation colonies from which they have come. If anything more is to be done on their behalf, I am prepared to look into it and see that additional loans or funds are given. There may be some who may have come from States outside West Bengal. They can also go back to those States. If the idea

is that people who have been rehabilitated within the State of West Bengal desert and come to Sealdah, those who have been rehabilitated in the U.P., Bihar or other places, desert and come to Sealdah and I make Dandakaranya the dumping ground for all of them, I am not prepared to concede that.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: I have to put a question. Will the hon. Minister kindly assure that the correspondents accredited to the Government of India are not going to be dispossessed of the houses that have been allotted to them?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I want to be a friend of the press all of my life. I feel that we are both parasitical to each other. If I die, they die; if they live, I live. I do not want to make enemies of them at all. Sixty-four of them have been allotted accommodation to which they are not entitled. This accommodation they have taken out of the general pool which is meant for government servants. For me now to make a categorical statement that they shall stay there for all their life, it is very difficult.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: For the time they work in Delhi: not for all their life.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Just a second, please. Some of them represent big concerns. *Times of India*, for example; you know who owns that paper. We also know who owns the *Indian Express*. We also know who owns or runs the *Hindustan Times*. Why can't these big concerns provide houses to their own correspondents? They should.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: After all....

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Why do you want to tell them that you are a greater friend of them? I am a much greater friend.

My point is this. Sixty-four houses are with them. If Shri C. K. Bhattacharya, as the President of the News-

paper Editors' Conference, were to tell me two things—(i) that in future no further demand shall be made upon the Minister of Housing for the allotment of any additional accommodation for these correspondents, I can consider that aspect of the matter. Second, if there are press correspondents who own their own houses in Delhi—I do not say that they should vacate my house today—if and when their houses become vacant or the leases expire and they are prepared to move to their houses, I am prepared to consider that aspect of the matter. I do not want to dislodge anybody. But, you must concede that, on the one hand, you want me to give accommodation to government servants and on the other hand, I have to find accommodation for those who are not entitled. They get out of the same pool. I do not want to be unnecessarily harsh to anybody, let me tell you. Very lately, to a press correspondent who comes from the same part of the country that my hon. friend Mr. Bhattacharya comes I have given a tenement which also has a kitchen because they are going to have an addition in the family. We have to deal with it in a humane manner. I want to tell those who occupy Government accommodation to which they are not entitled, that they should appreciate my difficulty as well. I want Members of this House also to support me in this move of mine. I do not want to throw anybody on the street. I would look into each case and examine each case on merit. Whether they are press correspondents or anybody, I do not want to be unnecessarily harsh. But, there should be a time-limit and an extent to which they can go on occupying government accommodation. Some of them have lived in this accommodation for years. They should help me in this respect. I am prepared to meet them. I am prepared to meet the Minister for Information and Broadcasting. I am prepared to meet the Chairman of the Newspaper Editors' Conference. If some *via media*, some formula can be found where the correspondents can be easily accommodated, I am prepared to consider that.

870 (A) LSD—6.

Shri K. N. Pande (Hata): During my speech, I tried to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the miserable condition of the refugees settled in Gangakhadar and also to the condition of the workers employed in the Government Presses. May I hope that the hon. Minister will look into that?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As regards the Government printing presses, it was only yesterday that I asked my colleague Shri P. S. Naskar to meet some of the M.P.s who are taking an interest in the welfare of the press staff, whether the name is Shri Rande or Shri A. N. Vidyalkar or Shri Warior or Shri Nambiar. The idea is, whatever is due to a press worker, I want to give him that. I do not want to take away any of his rights. I want the labour relations between me and my press staff to be normal, to be restored. I propose to look into all these matters. If there are any specific points which they feel are not being properly attended to in the Press department of the Government of India, I am prepared to sit with them and look into each one of them.

As regards Gangakhadar, I admit, it is one of my very bad projects. It was badly conceived. It was conceived in an area which is entirely land-logged. In spite of our best efforts, we have not been able to rehabilitate the 200 or 400 families who are living in Gangakhadar or, as we call it, Hastinapur. We made efforts to set up an industry there. Unfortunately, that failed. It was found that the man who was setting up that industry was not playing the game. We are now trying if some more industries could be set up. I am going to take up this matter again with the U.P. Government. Whatever assistance is required from the Government of India shall not be wanting.

Shri Mohammad Tahir (Kisanganj): I want to know in respect of his first love, namely, rehabilitation, whether

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it is in the knowledge of the hon. Minister that in West Bengal, there are a large number of Muslims who never went to Pakistan and they are still in West Bengal—mostly in Calcutta. They were displaced. Has the hon. Minister taken any steps to rehabilitate such persons?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: There are two kinds of Muslims who are in West Bengal. One, those who went away to Pakistan and came back under the Nehru-Liaquat Pact. It was enjoined upon us under the Nehru Liaquat Pact to restore them their original holdings. There was a specific date. All those who appealed before that date—and their number is about 13,000—have been restored their houses. Second: those who got displaced within the State. When the refugees came, they occupied about 1000 or 1200 houses round about Calcutta and other places or lands, which belonged both to Hindus and Muslims. It cannot be denied that these lands belonged both to Muslims and Hindus. In about 50 per cent of the cases—may be more—we have been able to restore the holdings to the original owners, both Muslims and Hindus. There is a very small number now round about Calcutta in which we have not been able to take appropriate action. Dr. B. C. Roy is doing his level best. Now, there are two courses open to us. Either we throw out the refugees and get these lands vacated and if it is not possible or practicable, the only thing open to us is to give adequate compensation or proper compensation to the Muslim owners. That point is receiving my constant attention.

14 hrs.

Mr. Chairman: I shall now put the cut motions to the vote of the House. All the cut motions were put and negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order

Paper including the sums already voted on Account for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of Demands Nos. 99 and 143 relating to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 141 and 142 relating to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply."

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for Demands for grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below.—Ed.]

DEMAND NO. 99—MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,22,000 including the sums already voted on account for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963 in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

DEMAND NO. 100—SUPPLIES AND DISPOSALS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,38,32,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of pay-

ment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Supplies and Disposals'."

DEMAND No. 101—PUBLIC WORKS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,48,19,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Public Works'."

DEMAND No. 102—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,98,09,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

DEMAND No. 103—EXPENDITURE ON DISPLACED PERSONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,18,93,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons'."

DEMAND No. 104—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 57,95,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

DEMAND No. 141—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON PUBLIC WORKS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,11,75,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Public Works'."

DEMAND No. 142—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,46,35,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

DEMAND No. 143—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,59,39,000 including the sums already voted on account for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Mr. Chairman: The House will now take up discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Hon. Members who are desirous of moving cut motions may send chits containing the numbers of the selected cut motions at the Table within fifteen minutes.