

sident 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, 1966, in respect of Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'."

**DEMAND No. 134—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,58,42,000 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, 1966, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'."

13 hrs.

**MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION**

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 84, 85 and 139 relating to the Ministry of Rehabilitation for which 4 hours have been allotted.

**Hon. Members** desirous of moving their cut motions may send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating which of the cut motions they would like to move.

**DEMAND No. 84—MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION**

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,20,000 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, 1966, in respect of Ministry of Rehabilitation'."

**DEMAND No. 85—EXPENDITURE ON DISPLACED PERSONS**

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,30,86,000 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, 1966, in respect of 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons'."

**DEMAND No. 139—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION**

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,19,20,000 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, 1966, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Rehabilitation'."

The above Demands are now before the House.

**Shri Y. N. Singha (Sundergarh):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problems of the Ministry of Rehabilitation are as old as our independence. For the last seventeen years it has been an important national concern and nobody knows how long these problems would continue, if they are not properly solved. This problem unfortunately is dependent upon our relationship with a neighbouring State. Pakistan, whose behaviour with its minority community determines its aggravation or amelioration.

After unthinkable barbarism and colossal holocaust, it took quite some time for healing up and before things had begun settling down fresh tension appeared in Pakistan shattering the confidence of the minorities in that Government. Hindus, Buddhists and Christians were robbed of their property, women of their dignity and men, women and children killed by organised riots and communal disturbance. In such an atmosphere it is

not possible to expect the minorities to live in peace in that country.

Every time there has been some tension in Pakistan, the dimension of the influx goes up upsetting the existing arrangements of our Government for their rehabilitation. Recently, the Government of India decided to seal the border because of a genuine suspicion that Pakistani spies might cross into our country in the garb of refugees. From the point of view of security of the country every patriot would agree with the intention of the Government. But in the process of screening, the humanitarian aspect of the matter should not be lost sight of. Women and children who had fled from Pakistan because of barbarous torture were pushed back. It is the exclusive responsibility of the Government of India and not of any particular State to look after the refugees. If there has been lapses in dealing with the problem, it is a failure of this Government.

Where are these people who have been pushed back to go? They can never go again to Pakistan, because if they turn back, they face the Pakistani army who would not allow them in. In the hurry of fleeing from the torture, how can it be expected that the refugees would collect the necessary travel documents along with them? Even if screening is necessary, that should not be taken as a pretext for making the refugees to squat in the no-man's land for days without food and water. What is more dangerous is that because of want of food and water if some epidemic breaks out, people who feared death in Pakistan and sacrificed their all for life would meet with ignominious death in the border itself.

These are comparatively recent happenings. But the problem is much more comprehensive than that. Initially, the migrants who came with certificates from the Deputy High Commissioner, Dacca, were given relief

and rehabilitation benefits, which were restricted after 1958. But after 64 riots these restrictions were relaxed again.

Camps have been set up for accommodating the refugees temporarily, which are called reception centres. The daily allowance is fifty paise per adult. With the rising prices it is difficult even to think of a full meal with fifty paise per day for an adult. Therefore, this needs revision and nothing less than a rupee per day for an adult would be barely enough.

Life during transit camps is equally miserable. The cash dole per month there for a family of five comes to Rs. 70 or Rs. 14 per head. This does not seem to be related with the market price of foodstuffs. Keeping refugees half-fed is no solution of the problem. It may keep them for some days till the condition of semi-starvation forces the person to desert the camp. Over and above this there may be few other facilities available. But the cash dole is all that is available for food.

Dandakaranya is supposed to be the place which is to rehabilitate the refugees. The scheme was drawn up about eight years back and it is time to assess how far it has succeeded. The Central Government has the goodwill of all the three States of Orissa, Andhra and Madhya Pradesh for the success of this project. But, all the same, it has not made much headway. The reason for this is that the majority of the refugees were not agriculturists. When it was insisted that they should take to agriculture, they resisted. Being technical people, either in weaving or other profession, development of an industrial complex would have interested them to the advantage of both. Till today there is no sincere endeavour for developing an industrial complex there. It is time that serious thought is given to it. The neighbouring area abounds in mineral ores. Electricity is plentifully available. The

[Shri Y. N. Singha]

refugees would be willing to participate in the industries, as that would give them much better wage. Could there be a better background for industry than this? What is wanted is organisation and finance, and the Ministry of Rehabilitation lacks neither. Instead of spending money in the shape of doles year after year and making the refugees entirely rely on it, money should be better spent by organising an industrial complex thereby creating some self-generating economy where the refugees could earn and live a much better life. What is lacking is foresight and organisation.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty** (Barrackpore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I stand up to discuss these Demands for Grants I feel that we have to come to a situation where the refugees in East Pakistan have become like a tribe of lost people. After 16 to 17 years, this House and the Government feel tired of them. But we cannot forget that these are the millions of men and women on whose blood and bones this Government has come into power, because without the sacrifice of their lives and their happiness this Government could not have come into being. My mind goes back to the millions of men and women and also children uprooted from their homes in East Pakistan by the violence of communal passion, squeezed out by economic boycott and the indiscriminate mal-practice of always seeing that the minority community does not have a fair deal. And there is always the fear of new violence coming up.

Sometimes I have a feeling that we have begun to feel "well, what can we do?". From East Pakistan people are coming every now and then and that is why we are not able to rehabilitate them.

**Shri Solanki** (Kaira): There is no quorum, Sir, in the House.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty**: Sir, it is very disheartening that when such

an important matter is being debated there is only one Member from the Government and 3 Members of the ruling party present.

**Mr. Speaker**: The bell is being rung—Now there is quorum. The hon. Member might continue her speech.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty**: Sir, I was saying that we have to continue to expect that there will be more waves of refugees coming across. After 1946 and the great killings we had in the 1950 riots, which were terrible riots, in East Pakistan. Then there were many smaller riots and in 1962 we then had another outburst of violence. Then in 1964 the worst riots took place and now as we participate in this debate the whole of our East Pakistan-West Bengal border has become alive with firing and killings. Just at this time we hear that our Government wants to seal the border.

I raise this point because I have a particular point to make to this House. There is a feeling in our minds that the whole attempt of God during this period has been to try to minimise the responsibilities towards those people to whom we had promised that we would give them a home and a shelter and rehabilitate them in India if they accepted partition.

Sir, I would just like to point out what the restrictions are, that have taken place, on migration. On the 15th October, 1952 migration certificates were introduced. You yourself, Sir, were a Member of the Opposition and I remember, we discussed this matter in this House. We opposed it at that time. Later on, in 1958 this Government said and this House accepted it that no one who comes to India after the 31st March, 1958, would be given any rehabilitation benefits. Then, again in January 1964 this had be relaxed under the pressure of violence that had taken place in East Pakistan and the feelings of compassion that were aroused in our

country. It was decided, after much debate, that all those who came even without travel documents would be eligible for benefits. Then, as soon as things became not normal but began to die down as far as the public in India was concerned, on the 1st November, 1964, it was again stated that only those who came with migration certificates would be eligible for benefits. Then, on the 1st March, 1965, surreptitiously, I would say, orders for sealing of the borders were passed which were implemented on the 1st April.

I want to say that even in this latest influx—I want this House to consider this—out of a total of 8.56 lakhs, 4.42 lakhs, that is, 51.6 per cent of the people have come into India without documents. That is the difficulty that they have faced in being able to get migration documents from Dacca. Out of these people only 3.39 lakhs have taken the hospitality of Government camps and relief centres. Let us not always try to say that Government is overburdened with all the 8 or 10 lakhs of people who have come across. That is not true. According to your figures themselves the fact is that a very small percentage of the East Pakistan refugees have applied to you for help from Government; the majority of them have somehow starved, fought and struggled and have got their rehabilitation. Actually, there were only 3.51 lakhs in camps on the 31st December, 1964.

What was the situation about these new refugees? I might say a few words about that. We talk so much about security. Even today in some paper it was splashed—I think, it is done purposely by this Ministry—that so many old refugees are coming posing as DPs and get into camps. What is the number? Out of almost 1 million that have come across, only 256 persons have been detected as old DPs. I am taking the figures which have been given to us in the report of Government. They are only 256

and because of them you seal the border! Is that an excuse?

Then again, we are told that actually a very large number of them have deserted. Not more than 10 to 12 per cent have deserted. Why? Have we gone into it? The Estimates Committee has very rightly in a very soft and gentle way stated what the situation was when they came across. We have seen the situation in Dandakaranya. There also I do not know what to make of the figures that have been given to us. The figures that have been given to us with regard to Dandakaranya at various times, both in the Consultative Committee of the Rehabilitation Ministry as well as in the reports, indicate that in the beginning of January 1964 there were 7,603 refugees families, that is, those who were the old migrants; at the end of December, 1964, we find that there were 10,278 families in camps including those that had come earlier. That means, only 2,207 of the new migrants had been taken to Dandakaranya.

What is the number that has been given land in project sites? Only 6,000 and something have been given land; that is, not even the old migrants have been able to get land. These are the figures. They speak. My hon. friend, Shri Mono Mohan Das, is looking so worried, thinking that possibly he must say that these figures are wrong. These are not wrong.

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Rehabilitation (Dr. M. M. Das):** At least, these are not our figures.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** These are your figures. I have culled them out from your papers. Funnily enough, we have been told by another set of papers which have been given to us—these were given to us in the Consultative Committee—that the number of families that have been sent to the project area—that is the word that is used—is 33,000. God alone knows which figure is correct. I presume, we better take the figure 10,000

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty]

because that will at least reduce the burden of responsibility upon you.

There are significant discrepancies and I do not want to go into them. I say that the reason for the desertions is that there is, we find, a long time taken before dispersals take place. Not only that, we find that even the soil of the land given to old refugees is poor; it is porous. I have seen it myself. There is no proper contour bunding, terracing or levelling. Four to five years of intensive green manuring has to be done before these lands can yield much. Very clever selective crop cutting figures have been given to us; yet, we know that in a place like Dandakaranya unless you have irrigation you cannot have much yield. I say this after having visited it five years ago with the Estimates Committee. Even after five years, today the Bhaskal Dam has not been put into action. What is the area that it is going to command? Out of a total command area of something like 11,000 acres, I think, we will only be getting water for 1,000 to 1,200 acres. What is the use of giving highly selective crop cutting figures?

13.19 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

As a matter of fact, at the end of December, 1963, the census showed that 40 per cent of the settlers in one zone had been left with 10 maunds of paddy in stock which meant that two or three months food alone was there for them.

Regarding non-agricultural displaced persons—because, we have to think of them also—originally, we were promised, the people of Bengal were told that the displaced persons must go to Dandakaranya because they cannot give us agricultural land in Bengal. Now, what is the condition of those families who have gone there? A majority of them have been pushed to other places. You could not give

them land for which they have been waiting for so long. You have given land only to 6,000 families and the rest are being pushed here and there.

When we turn to non-agricultural displaced persons, we find that their position is also very pitiable. They have not been provided with any facilities for earning their livelihood. There is top-heavy administration costing Rs. 1.10 crores plus those salaries which have been passed on to other departments like Irrigation or transport. But for that, the figure would have been much bigger. It is really a top-heavy administration. It we had spent half of what we spent on salaries of big officers and administration, we could have given more relief to the refugees. These non-agriculturist refugees, most of them, have no homestead yet. Only very few of them have it. I find here the figures are 40; 60; 80 and so on. I know what my hon. friend, Dr. Das will get up and say “No, we have given it to everybody”. But I am quite sure that if I have the time—unfortunately, I have not enough time—I could show and prove by your own figures that at various times you have given different figures. There are very few shops allotted to them and they are lying vacant because of high rents. The small-scale industries there are running at heavy losses. I have seen them myself and I believe they will continue like that.

In the Consultative Committee we have been told that everything is excellent in the camps. They say so because they know that it is very difficult for us to go immediately and see things for ourselves. Therefore, all these things are passed on as the real situation obtaining there.

Then, what is the subsistence wage which they get? That is another important question. I find that at the relief camps where they are working in work centres for the whole month the wage is Rs. 32. Can people

subsist on such an earning? Then, out of Rs. 180.32 lakhs allotted for industries, for non-agricultural schemes, I find that Rs. 100 lakhs have been used for construction of 5,000 tenements in Orissa. What shall they eat? Where will they work? Then, only Rs. 33.44 lakhs is left for non-agricultural schemes. In many of the homestead plots which were meant for non-agriculturists, I hear that project staff are living. Take the case of education, which has the smallest budget. The teacher pupil ratio is high, the stipends for the hostels niggardly and opportunities for technical education in outside institutions inadequate. I could have gone into it in greater detail but I have no time.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** She should conclude now.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** If we try to discuss this demand in this way, with so little time, it will not be doing justice to the problem. Of course, it will be good for Shri Tyagi because he can get away with it.

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Tyagi):** I would like to hear more and more concrete suggestions from her.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf (Jammu and Kashmir):** In the Business Advisory Committee they should have asked for more time for this Ministry.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** The difficulty is that we did not attend some meetings. If we do not participate in the discussion on some Ministries that should be given to us for discussion on other Ministries.

**Shri Tyagi:** May I assure my hon. friend that any criticism from her is very much welcome. She can criticise me now and ever.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** If Shri Dinen Bhattacharya is not participating on behalf of the Left Communists, I can give her that time.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** He is participating. If we do not participate, who will participate?

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** All of us are interested in this problem.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** If we cannot get enough time, I think there is no point in participating in the discussion any more.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I cannot increase the time.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** This relates mainly to West Bengal. So, Members coming from West Bengal should be given more time.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** No, it is a problem for the whole country.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Well, I do not want to enter into a discussion on that point.

The West Bengal Government is shedding crocodile tears for the refugees for public consumption. I want to know why they cannot take on their shoulders the permanent liability of women who have come as widows etc. Could they not settle them in West Bengal? Why should they be moved from place to place? It is a shocking state of affairs. I was all along under the impression that these 5,000 or 7,000 permanent liability people who have come over to Bengal would be looked after by the West Bengal Government, instead of being pushed out of Bengal and sent to very far off places. Can we not find an institution for them in Bengal? Yet, this is the callous and indifferent way in which both the Central and West Bengal Governments are behaving. And what has our friend, the Rehabilitation Minister of West Bengal stated? I want to read it for the delectation of the Minister here. She has said very clearly that the Government of India had long discussions, for a year almost, with them and there has been hardly any progress, with the result that with

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regard to the old refugees who had been there prior to January and whose responsibility was taken over by the Central Government by saying that they will rehabilitate all those who have come here before the 31st March 1958, they are trying to reduce their responsibility. They have given money for the squatters colony for example. Now there is a quarrel between the Central Government and the State Governments about the squatters' colony. My hon. friend, Shri Tyagi, will say: we have sanctioned so many schemes and we have given so many lakhs of rupees. But here is the statement of the West Bengal Minister herself that for a whole year they have been discussing it and they have almost come to a dead end, a standstill, because the Government of India says that unless the municipalities accept the maintenance of these colonies, they will not be able to give any money. She has said that whatever has come is a very little insignificant amount compared to what is necessary. I wish I could read it out, but it is in Bengali. I hope Shri Tyagi will understand it. It says: "After more than a year's discussion regarding various problems everything has come to a standstill ...for whatever reason it be the Government of India has not sanctioned any money this year."

The West Bengal Government says that the Central Government has not given any money, or sanctioned any money, this year. Let him contradict it, if he can.

**Shri Tyagi:** I will do it.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** I would like to read out to you just for the delectation of the House what the Minister has stated. I hope it will create a row in West Bengal. The Minister has himself written to me and I would read from that what he has stated. In this letter to me he says:

"I want to reduce my liabilities for the old migrants."

He has no right to reduce his liability for the old migrants. He has to carry it along with the new problems. Without a change of policy by this House, behind our backs he cannot reduce his liability. What is the position of the old refugees?

If you have the time, go to those permanent liability camps and see the condition in which women are living in those camps. In Titagarh Women's camp and Cooper's camp they are living in a kind of hell—latrines with no doors, leaking roofs, no opportunities for vocational training. Shri Khanna, when he was in charge of this department, wanted to pass on the baby and he said it has gone to the Education Ministry. When we write to the Education Ministry, for years no reply comes. And what is the dole that they are giving? People will laugh if you call it a dole. The dole is Rs. 49.90 for 15 days and two seers of rice. Can we not do something better for these women who have come here as a permanent liability and for the looking after of whom you have become the Minister?

Take the squatters' camps Miss Abha Maiti, the West Bengal Minister, has stated that 149 colonies are to be regularised and out of them only 136 have been regularised and 8 partially. What does it mean? Then, very few of these families have been given possession titles of the land. Only the minimum development work is started—only 35 for 149 colonies.

In Patna Udbastu Palli there is no regularisation scheme and nothing has been done. Only some narrow roads have been built—even that by refugees; nothing more; no drains, no water, no electricity or other amenities.

**Shri Tyagi:** Which colony is my hon. friend referring to?

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** I am referring to Patna Udbastu Palli in North Dum Dum Municipality.

Then you may see the condition in Netaji colony, Baranagar which is one of the biggest. 6000 people are living there. There is no proper drainage there. The refugees have built it up themselves. There is no lighting there. During monsoon, it is full of water. The bazar which the people in that colony have developed is a very big area, and they want more space, but nothing is being done. Only 115 out of 600 have been given *Arpan Patras*.

Then, if you go to Mullick Colony, Baranagar you will see that the state of sanitation there is like hell. I myself saw the development there. I had been to the Sevagram colony in Ichapore area, and I saw that the contractors were making the drains, but after two days, when I went and saw the place I found that the drains had all collapsed because the contractors are eating up all the money. And yet my hon. friend the Minister will say 'Look at the amount of money that we are spending; look at the amount of work that we are doing'. I would like to tell him that we do not want to see the amount of money that is being spent because all the money that this Government is spending is not going really to the welfare of the refugees.

Then take the case of the Government colony, namely the Bonhooghly colony. There is a Government colony scheme there. 42 persons were removed from Nandi Colony for the Bonhooghly industrial scheme, and we persuaded those people to leave that area, because Government wanted to have an industrial scheme there and we had agreed to that. And those 42 people who had been removed from there had been promised that they would be given rehabilitation benefits. If you go to that area you will find that at the time of monsoon, the people there are living in knee-deep water. I have been writing and writing about this matter, but I find that even to get a reply from Shri Tyagi is like getting a reply from the Olympian heights. I wrote to him in

September and I got the reply on 1 December, 1964.

Then, take the case of the Bandhabnagar government colony in Belghoria. There also, the same state of affairs prevails in regard to roads, drains and water etc. Take the case of the situation in regard to tube-wells there. Such a long correspondence has been going on between the State Government and the Central Government. And finally, now the municipalities have agreed to take over the responsibility of maintenance. I have got the reply from the chairman of one of the municipalities. But what has happened actually? Nothing has happened, and nothing has proceeded.

The West Bengal Government has stated that they would not give benefits to the partially rehabilitated families and those still awaiting Government benefits, on the ground that the State Government must underwrite the return of the loans.

Then, let us take the question of those who are to get alternative house-building plots. What is the reason for our not giving them plots? The West Bengal Government say that the Central Government are refusing to increase the ceiling. Government are under a promise to give them plots, especially for the non-agricultural families. It is good to give them plots in the suburban areas of Calcutta, because then we would not have to worry about their vocation or about giving them jobs; they can get jobs of some kind or the other. But then the ceiling limit is only Rs. 1250, and I would like to know which fool in India will be prepared to give even five *kuttas* of land to Government for a sum of Rs. 1250. You cannot get any plot for that amount even in the interior villages. That being the case, how can you expect to get some plot in the suburban areas? And yet Government refuse to increase the ceiling.

In regard to the shops built, we do not have such beautiful shopping

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centres as we have here in Delhi like Shankar Market, in Connaught Circus. The refugees have been able to build up only little shacks by the side of the pavements. But now they are being pulled down to the ground because the roads could not be allowed to be cluttered up with such pavement shops. I agree that we cannot have our roads cluttered up. But why do you not give them amenities to build shops in places where they can really have some facilities to earn their own living?

Even in areas where acquisition of plots of land was proceeding this Government and this Ministry have stopped those acquisition proceedings. I have given concrete examples in this connection. Take the case of the Konnagore (Hooghly) Kalitola Colony scheme. They have refused to finalise the acquisition proceedings. Then, they have also refused to finalise the Agapur-Masunda, Kodalia Scheme No. 2. I go on writing and writing about these matters, but nothing happens at all. This is the stalemate to which everything has been reduced.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member should try to conclude now.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** I shall refer to the question of citizenship, and I shall have done. What is going to happen to the citizenship of those who have come over to India without travel document? Surely, according to our citizenship law, those who have crossed over from Pakistan must be given citizenship. Up till now, the State Government have said that they have given citizenship to those who came in January and February, 1964. But in respect of those who have come after that period, they have issued a circular saying that their petitions could be accepted but they might be kept in abeyance. For security reasons, of course, by all means have some screening. But finally you have got to give those people citizenship.

Shri Tyagi is a very busy man. He interferes in every other Ministry except in his own; he interferes in the work of the Food Ministry; he interferes in the work of the hon. Leader of the House when he is answering our points of order. He is busy with everything else except his own Ministry. I would beg of him to please look to one thing; let him not allow his joint secretaries and secretaries to dominate over him; I do not know whether he dominates over them or they dominate over him. But my impression is that they dominate over him. I wish that that were not so. But if it were so, I would say that it is better that we do not have Shri Tyagi in this Ministry, and let us do away with this Ministry. After all, we do not have to find out a place for him for Shri Tyagi on the Treasury Benches. He can fit in anywhere even as one of the Opposition Members here. I would welcome the Dandakaranya Development Authority being converted into an autonomous corporation, and for the rest of it, we need not have to try to find out a place for Shri Tyagi for he will not remain unemployed, and I am sure about it. But I would beg of him for one thing. Whatever might happen, when we are spending so much of money on other things, when we are giving about Rs. 20 crores to Tata and Sir Biren Mukerjee, when we are giving so much money for furniture, electricity etc. to Ministers, why should we not give some more money for the refugees in order to finalise the state of affairs with regard to the old refugees? If that is not done, then I would only utter a warning; if the promises which were made at the time of Partition are going to be broken again and again, then Government should see the writing on the wall, and realise they will not be forgiven.

**Shri A. C. Guha (Barsat):** It is a painful task for me almost every year to criticise the working of this Ministry. Except perhaps for one or

two years when there was some serious attempt, I should say that Government have not seriously tried to tackle this problem of the East Bengal refugees and rehabilitate them.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member might resume his seat for a minute.

The hon. Members may now move cut motions to Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Rehabilitation, subject to their being otherwise admissible.

**Shri Yashpal Singh (Kairana):** I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give more powers to Dandakaranya Development Authority (1)].

(ii) "That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to expedite the rehabilitation of displaced persons from East Pakistan (2)].

(iii) "That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give more amenities to displaced persons residing in Camps (3)].

(iv) "That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Delay in rehabilitating the displaced persons in Andamans (4)].

(v) "That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Working of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation particularly in the matter of opening industries (5)].

(vi) "That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to maintain discipline and law and order in Camps (6)].

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to rehabilitate new migrants coming after 1st January, 1964 (13)].

(ii) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Forms of rehabilitation benefits to new migrants staying on in West Bengal (14)].

(iii) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Constant effort of Government in reducing their liabilities with regard to influx of refugees and their rehabilitation (15)].

(iv) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to grant citizenship to refugees even after fulfilling the terms laid down in Citizenship Law (16)].

(v) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to carry out promises to rehabilitate all refugees coming to India up to 31st March, 1958 (17)].

(vi) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to fulfil promise to acquire land for homestead plots and house buildings for all "eligible" refugees in West Bengal (18)].

(vii) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty]

[Giving up of acquisition proceedings for Kalitota Colony, P.O. Konnagar, district Hooghly (19)].

(viii) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Delay in acquisition of land for Agapur-Masunda Scheme II, Kodalia 24 Parganas, West Bengal (20)].

(ix) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Policy regarding giving of housing benefits to refugees coming prior to 31st March, 1958 who were squatting in houses of Muslims and Hindus (21)].

(x) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to honour promise of rehabilitation to refugees uprooted from Nandi Colony and sent to Banhooghly Government Colony, 24 Parganas (22)].

(xi) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Conditions prevailing in Government sponsored colonies like Banhooghly Colony, Bandhabnagar Colony, 24 Parganas (23)].

(xii) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Slow development works in the colonies taken up for regularisation (24)].

(xiii) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to regularise colonies like Patna Udbastee Colony, North Dum Dum Municipality, 24 Parganas (25)].

(xiv) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to improve the conditions of women in Permanent Liability Camps (26)].

(xv) "That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to improve the conditions of refugees in Darrang district in Assam (27)].

(xvi) "That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Progress of the Dandakaranya Project (30)].

(xvii) "That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Working of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation (31)].

(xviii) "That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Functioning of the Dandakaranya Development Authority (32)].

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** These cut motions are now before the House.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I was going to say that ever since the problem had come before this country, there had not been any serious attempt either on the part of the Central Government or on the part of the State Government to solve this problem of rehabilitation of the refugees, particularly the East Pakistan refugees. The West Pakistan refugees have more or less been settled, because there was a vacuum created by the migration of the Muslims, and they got the evacuee land and they got compensation and so many other things. But on the eastern side, it was only an one-way traffic, and, therefore, there was no vacuum created nor any compensation and evacuee property. That is why the problem was so difficult. Government have also been toying with this problem without taking any serious measures to solve this problem.

The only serious step which they have tried to take is in regard to the Dandakaranya project. Much hope was

entertained about that project. But I am sorry to say that from the very beginning, perhaps deliberately or if not deliberately out of their weakness, Government allowed internal bickerings to continue and spoil the efficient working of the Dandakaranya Development Authority. So, not much has been done there. But still there is scope. I hope Government will try to improve matters and do something still now.

I am not going to say much on this matter, because the report of the Estimates Committee in which I have had some part to play is there before the House and before the country. So, I shall not say much about the Dandakaranya project. But I would mention only one thing that this authority should be invested with that much of autonomy which was originally envisaged to be given to it. Its constitution should be so framed that it could work smoothly without any internal bickerings, which have been chronic from the very beginning up to the end of almost the last year. I have stated already that there has not been any serious attempt to solve the problem of the East Bengal refugees. Of course, some show of an attempt has been made, because from the report of the Ministry every year we find that they have spent some amount; even from this year's report we find that they have spent almost an equal amount for East Pakistan and West Pakistan refugees, about Rs. 202 or Rs. 205 crores or something like that. But I do not think that Government should try to create a wrong impression in this House through such statements in the report. Apart from the fact that about Rs. 185 crores have been given to West Pakistan DPs as compensation, which was not available for the East Pakistan DPs) out of this sum Rs. 202 crores which is stated to have been spent on the East Bengal refugees, about Rs. 60 crores were spent not on rehabilitation but on relief. It was no fault of the refugees that Government kept them in camps not for one year

or two years but for eight to ten years. At least 99 per cent of them were crying out for rehabilitation, and yet Government did not care to formulate any scheme for rehabilitation. Therefore, they spent about Rs. 60 crores on relief which should not be shown a rehabilitation expenditure. Then, about Rs. 25 crores have been spent on the Dandakaranya. But I would submit that this has been spent on the general development of the area. It is not every such item which should be debited to the rehabilitation of the East Bengal refugees. I feel that the major portion of it should have been shown as amount spent on the general development of the country; not more than 25 to 30 per cent of the amount could be allocated as having been spent on real rehabilitation work. So, the presentation of figures was misleading.

Another thing, which the Member preceding me also mentioned, is about the residuary problem. Certain decision was taken between the Central Government and the State Government about two years ago regarding this problem. The Central Government agreed to take that responsibility and make further grants for the proper economic rehabilitation of the refugees settled in West Bengal and Assam. But I am told now, there have been some difficulties between the State Government and the Central Government and at one stage, the latter declined to give anything for the residuary problem. I expect that that tangle has been solved. I am not so sure. I hope Shri Tyagi will announce in this House that whatever commitments were made by his Ministry, whether presided over by him or by his predecessor, would be respected and so far as for the residuary problems regarding the partially rehabilitated refugees in West Bengal, the Central Government will take full responsibility and do everything so that they may be economically rehabilitated.

Coming to the question of new migrants, only three days ago there

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was a row in this House about the ban put on migrants coming without valid documents. It has been contended on behalf of Government that migration procedures have been simplified. That is not quite correct. Even now it is a cumbersome procedure. An intending migrant will have to go to Dacca from quite distant places at least twice and will have to stay there for at least two weeks to get a migration certificate and not in one instalment. He will have to go there at least on two occasions, first to have the migration certificate form; then the migration officer may give him a date three months, six months or even one year later. Then he has to go to Dacca to get that certificate. As I have already said, the form that is to be filled in is also a very difficult and cumbersome form. So it is not true to say that the procedures have been made very easy.

It was contended the other day that no pending applications were there. I am not sure. I am not ready to accept that statement without any reservations. I would like to ask: if there is no pending application, what percentage of applications were rejected by the migration officers? You can easily solve the problem by rejecting 100 per cent or 90 per cent of the applications and say there is no pending application. My apprehension is that the vast majority of migration applications have been rejected on this or that ground or on some frivolous excuses. So if by rejecting the migrants' applications they have solved the problem, that is no solution at all.

I would like to remind my hon. friend, Shri Tyagi, about what has been mentioned in the report of the Indian Commission of Jurists which is a branch of the International Commission of Jurists. This is what they say:

"As for the intent, we are of opinion that these recurring atrocities are being perpetrated with the sole purpose of eliminating non-Muslims from Pakistan".

Then they say that "crime of genocide is certainly established so far as Hindus are concerned". In several other places, mention has been made of this. They say the police and other persons in authority threaten non-Muslims with dire consequences unless they quit Pakistan'.

So there is a deliberate attempt on the part of the Pakistan Government to squeeze out the minorities from Pakistan.

In this respect, I would like to remind Shri Tyagi of the solemn pledge given to the minorities in East Bengal by all the leaders of India. I still remember the resounding words of our previous Prime Minister when he described the Hindus of East Bengal as 'our kith and kin' bone of our bones and flesh of our flesh'. Panditji and the Sardarji gave unequivocal assurances that the doors of India would always be open to them, and whenever there was any calamity, they would be able to seek shelter in India. So I do not think there is any justification for, or morality in, closing the doors now. It pains me to say that it was my friend, Shri Tyagi, who first initiated the policy of pushing back the migrants. I am not sure, judging from newspaper reports; whether the assurance given here on the 6th has been communicated to the officers working in the borders. Even in yesterday's papers, I found that certain persons were detained and sent back to Pakistan. Even in cases where the husband is an Indian citizen and he went to the border to receive his wife who was coming without a migration certificate, the wife was not allowed to join the husband. I hope the assurance that was given on the 6th will be conveyed, necessary instructions will be given, to the officers working in the border that nobody should be pushed back. I hope it will not be proper for Shri Tyagi to earn this distinction of initiating the policy of pushing back the minorities to the hell-fire of Pakistan. This is the first time it is being done. Never before were they pushed back.

As long as the relations between India and Pakistan remain as they are, there is no possibility of the minorities staying there in security or under normal conditions. It is no fault of theirs that the Pakistan Government is against them. The Pakistan Government is against them because it is against India and it feels that every Hindu or every non-Muslim is an agent of the Government of India. If the Government of India can normalise their relations with the Pakistan Government, I do not think there would be so much pressure on the minorities coming into India. So it is their responsibility to create that condition; they cannot shirk that responsibility by closing the doors. In fact, the minorities there made heroic efforts to remain there.

Shri Tyagi—or all the three Ministers on the 6th—mentioned about the danger of infiltrators and saboteurs. May I ask what they have done about that? Several lakhs of infiltrators and saboteurs are in the borders of West Bengal and Assam. Government have not been able to do anything about them. These infiltrators and saboteurs are not among the migrants, but among the other community who have infiltrated into Indian territory even after partition.

About the new migrants, I am surprised to find in this annual report that about 18,000 families have deserted the camps. The exact figure is 18,100. The total number of families that went to camps was only about 47,000—47,561; I am excluding the Assam camps. I think these desertions have not happened so much in Assam. These have occasioned only in camps under the Central Government and also in some camps under the other State Governments, of UP, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Andhra and Maharashtra. So out of 47,561 families sent to their camps, 18,100 families have deserted. This is a serious problem, of which the Ministry should take notice. If they want to solve the problem of rehabilitation by the desertion of the refugees, then it is an easy way to solve it. That may solve the

problem for the Ministry, but not for the country. These 18,100 families, which means more than 90,000 people, have left the camps and have gone, nobody knows where. They will now join the ranks of vagabonds and anti-social elements. It is the civic and moral duty and responsibility of the Government to see that those who have come under their care do not go astray and join the ranks of anti-social elements and vagabonds in the country. So, I would like to impress on the Government the risk involved in this desertion.

I am afraid that this process of screening is a process of scaring away the inmates of the camps. What is the purpose of this screening? They have found out that about 60 per cent of the migrants have left part of their family in East Pakistan. What is the harm in that? I think that by this they have made the load on the Government of India lighter. They should appreciate that entire families have not come, that some members have been left there so that they may be able to dispose of the property and come back with some money, which should make the problem lighter. That is no offence.

Secondly, most of them have got only three bighas of land or a little more. Shri Tyagi should know that in East Bengal three bighas would be considered a property. Even in West Bengal the general holding is about two or three acres. So, three bighas, i.e., one acre, in East Bengal where land is better than in West Bengal, should be considered almost a property; and therefore it should not be considered that they are not agriculturists. Many of them have also been cultivating others' lands in addition to their own. They were also working as agricultural labourers.

So, this screening does not serve any useful purpose. I only hope that the migrants will not be scared away and desert the camps in fear of this screening. As you will find in the

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report of the Estimates Committee, there is a formidable form to be filled up by the inmates of the camps in the screening process. That form itself is enough to frighten them.

There have been desertions also in the Bhadravati camp. I have written a letter to Shri Tyagi. I hope he has taken up the matter with the concerned Government.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member should conclude now.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I would like to have two or three minutes more.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** If every Member exceeds the time, there is no time for others.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** This is the first Demand on which I am speaking.

Whether it decides by screening that they were holding much of agricultural land or not, our problem of rehabilitation should be based on the resources available here—not on the avocation they had there. I do not think even 25 per cent of the migrants can be accommodated in the agricultural vocation as we have not enough land. So, attention should be paid to industry. The RIC, I am told, has given a loan of Rs. 1 crore to industrialists. I doubt the wisdom of this. I was a Minister, and I was instrumental in giving loans to four or five firms of Rs. 20,000,00 to Rs. 25,000,00 each, on the condition that they would engage a certain percentage of refugees. They did not fulfil that condition, and I am sure this scheme of giving Rs. 1 crore of loans to industrialists will also fail in making any provision of employment for the refugees. The RIC should concentrate more on small scale and cottage industries, start such industries themselves, and gradually pass on those industries to the refugees when they are in a position to pay back the money to the RIC.

The policy has been laid down that those who have not gone to the camps will be denied rehabilitation benefits. I beg of Shri Tyagi to review this policy. This is a disastrous policy particularly from the point of view of West Bengal. About five lakhs of them have remained in West Bengal. I think more will be coming they will also remain in West Bengal. West Bengal is overpopulated. The unemployment problem there is more acute than in any other State and these five or six lakhs of refugees will also add to the problems of the State. I beg of Shri Tyagi to realise that though they may not be a charge on the Central Government or even on the West Bengal Government they will be a charge on the economy of West Bengal which may break under the pressure of these five or six lakhs or even more people coming. They will be roaming about unemployed without any vocation, and they will simply create a law and order problem and worsen the unemployment problem of West Bengal.

This policy of denying rehabilitation benefits to those who are not coming with valid papers or those who have not gone to camps should be revised and everybody who would be considered to be a migrant, should be given proper rehabilitation benefits, whatever the benefits may be. Even those who were not properly rehabilitated between 1950 and 1952 have, I now find rehabilitated themselves through their own exertions. Give them a plot of land, a house. they will rehabilitate themselves through their own labour. It is not true that they are shirking labour, that they are afraid of manual labour. Those who desert the camp; know that from the next day they have to earn their livelihood through hard labour. So, it is not a question of shirking labour, which makes them leave the camp.

I give credit to the Ministry particularly those who are working at

Mana, for having started some industrial schemes and an industrial training institute. I hope that this is only the beginning, that this scheme will be energetically pursued and that more industries will be started to absorb these migrants.

**Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda** (Cachar): I welcome the creation of the Ministry of Rehabilitation in last April after the massive exodus of the East Pakistan minorities to India from January, 1964.

I draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Report of the Ministry of Rehabilitation, which has been placed before the House, does not have the same colour on its cover as the reports of other Ministries. I do not know the reason behind it. At least I hope that the Government do not think that this Ministry is less important than the other Ministries.

From the Report we find that the issue of migration certificates was liberalised and simplified that relief and rehabilitation assistance has been extended not only to holders of migration certificates but also to those who came with Pakistani passports and surrendered them and to those who migrated without documents but were certified by the State Governments concerned to have come to India on or after 1st January, 1964. But recently we find from reports in newspapers that migrants who were coming without any valid travel documents were immediately sent back to Pakistan. This policy cannot be supported, as people feeling insecure of life and property are compelled to leave Pakistan for safety and security in India. May I submit that some ways and means must be found to give shelter and assistance to those terror-stricken migrants who cross the border without valid documents, while giving no scope for infiltrators and saboteurs from East Pakistan.

14 hrs.

The other day the hon. Home Minister assured the House that instructions had been issued to the State Governments concerned to ensure that no hardship was caused to genuine migrants because of the sealing of the border. On page 53 of the report, it is stated that the "residual problem relating to rehabilitation of the old migrants from East Pakistan has been practically liquidated in all States other than West Bengal." I cannot agree to this remark. Of course, I do not know much about other States but the condition of the State of Assam to which I belong is not so. More than 50 per cent of the old migrants in Cachar have not been rehabilitated. Money was spent but not properly utilised. As for an example, I may cite one or two instances. The Indian Tea Association scheme was taken up to rehabilitate the refugees in the tea gardens. Lakhs of rupees were spent but not even 25 per cent was rehabilitated. On my request, the then Rehabilitation Minister, Shri M. C. Khanna, was kind enough to appoint a one-man committee with Shri P. C. Borooah, M.P., to assess the success of the ITA scheme. I think the report of the said committee has not been submitted to the House up till now.

Another scheme, namely, the Ramakrishnanagar Tractor Organisation in Cachar, was a total failure. Money was wasted, and not a single soul was rehabilitated.

I do not like to go into details about all these, but I do feel that no assessment was made either by the Central or the State Government to find out what percentage of old refugees was rehabilitated in our area.

Now, I come to the new migrants who have come to India after the 1st January, 1964. It seems that nearly nine lakhs have come to India till the 31st January, 1965. It is striking that

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not only the Hindus but several thousands of Buddhists and Christians came away from East Pakistan along with the Hindus. About 48,000 are Christians and 20,000 are Buddhists. Almost all the Christians and the Buddhists have crossed the border of Assam.

I find from the report that 12,000 acres of land have been offered by the Assam Government—10,000 acres in Garo Hills area and 2,000 acres in Goalpara district. So far my information goes, only the tribal migrants will be settled there. It is also said that 100 migrant families have been moved to the rehabilitation site under the scheme, namely, terracing and soil conservation of land in Garo Hills, out of 500 families meant for the scheme.

There is no mention in the report regarding implementation of the other schemes sanctioned by the Central Government. I would request the Government to take steps to convince the Assam Government for the speedy execution of the other schemes.

I do not find from the report what are the schemes suggested by the Assam Government for rehabilitation of migrants other than the tribals, who are still in camps in the district of Cachar. Nor do I find anywhere in the report that these migrants will be taken out to any other States for rehabilitation. If they are to stay in Assam, at least some lands are to be reclaimed for cultivation of the agriculturists and some industries should be set up for employment of non-agriculturists.

So far as my information goes, one representation was submitted to the hon. Minister for his consideration and active action regarding reclamation of land in the district of Cachar while he visited the district last year. There was a proposal of establishing one sugar factory in the public sector in Cachar to provide employment to

the refugees, but it seems nothing has come up till now. I feel that Cachar being undeveloped and having great pressure of refugees on its economy, it requires greater attention of the Central Government.

May I humbly submit that a paper mill can easily be installed there, where resources are plenty. If one sugar mill and one paper mill are established immediately the question of rehabilitation of the migrants will be greatly solved.

The Rehabilitation Industries Corporation, Ltd., was set up in April, 1959 by the Ministry of Rehabilitation with the object of creating opportunities for employment through industries for the displaced persons from East Pakistan, and it was transferred to the Ministry of Commerce and Industries from 1st April, 1960, when the Rehabilitation Ministry was in the winding-up stage. I welcome that the administrative control of the corporation was retransferred to this Ministry with effect from the 28th October, 1964 to provide employment to a large number of migrants in industries. It is stated in the report that the corporation, apart from taking up industrial schemes itself, for the benefit of the migrants, will also render assistance to the State Governments in the fields of selection and planning of industrial and ancillary schemes and marketing of products. May I know from the Government how many States have availed themselves of this opportunity and have extended assistance to the migrants?

The Estimates Committee in its report on rehabilitation for the year 1964-65 commented at page 57 that "the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation can offer in creating employment potential for the migrants has not so far been properly explored." They further suggest that "it should try to set up small and rural industries which may gradually be hand-

ed over to the migrants and that the industrial loan scheme of the corporation should be properly planned, and adequate safeguards made therein to ensure that the industries set up with the help of loans obtained from the corporation actually employ migrants." I hope more attention will be paid in this regard.

I should like now to draw the attention of the House to another fact as stated in the report, namely, out of a total of 82,115 families comprising 3,51,716 persons were moved from the reception/interception centres on the borders up to the end of December, 1964, the number of migrants actually lodged in transit/relief camps as on the 2nd January, 1965 was only 66,713 families comprising 2,83,177 persons. Explaining the reasons for variation in the figures to the extent of 15,402 families comprising 38,539 persons, the Government have stated that from time to time migrants have been leaving the camps with or without permission, with the intention of settling down elsewhere or perhaps in a few cases of going back to Pakistan.

The Estimates Committee, in its report, comments that the reasons for desertion by the refugees from camps given by the Government are not very convincing. They also recommend that a critical study should be made as to the causes of desertions from the camps, so that suitable remedial measures may be adopted.

With these observations, I support the Demands.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri** (Berhampur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the speakers who preceded me have dealt with the salient points concerning this problem of refugees rehabilitation, and I do not want to take the time of the House by repeating those points. The problem can be discussed under three heads: firstly, the stupendous problem creat-

ed by the continuous influx of minorities from East Pakistan; secondly, the so-called residuary problem of old refugees. I do not accept the term "residuary". As a matter of fact, the idea of residuary problem arises from a notion that part of rehabilitation has been given to many people in West Bengal. But the Government should remember that part of rehabilitation is really no rehabilitation. Anyway, that problem still remains, and that is also a very big problem. Thirdly, the effort that we are making to build up Dandakaranya project, and our success or failure in regard to that boldly conceived but badly executed project.

So far as the problem of continuous minority influx from East Pakistan is concerned, only the other day we saw how the Government has fumbled over this whole problem. They thought that the problem of minority influx can be solved if they seal the border against the people coming without valid papers. That is really not the way of stopping or reducing the pressure of minority influx. As the House knows, the problem lies elsewhere. Government, in their dealings with our neighbouring countries, particularly East Pakistan, where the minority problem is a live problem, can perhaps find some solution. But unfortunately although this Ministry is not directly charged with that, through this Minister we can convey to the Cabinet as a whole how Government has failed in tackling this problem.

Last year this House passed a resolution unanimously for building up world opinion about the atrocities committed against minorities. The present Prime Minister happened to answer on behalf of the Government and with certain amendments, we adopted that resolution. But unfortunately not a single step has been taken so far by the Government in that direction.

I would like to draw the attention of Government in this connection to

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the observation contained in the report of the Indian Commission of Jurists in page 312 that as many as 20 to 25 articles of the Charter on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 have been violated by Pakistan. Only the jurists have pointed this out. But so far as Government are concerned, neither in the UN or other world bodies nor in their international and diplomatic propaganda have they utilised this thing to build up pressure of world opinion, so that Pakistan Government may change its ways.

Last year there was a conference between our Home Minister and the Pakistan Home Minister. I do not want to use any strong word, but the whole conference reduced itself to a farce and no sense of security was created in the minds of the minorities. Government should remember that even now about 80 lakhs of minority people are in East Pakistan and I do not know how many of them still remain behind. You may seal the border at the known reception and interception points, but we have an extensive border all along the frontier with East Pakistan in Assam side, North Bengal side and West Bengal side and you cannot seal it. I come from a border district. Although the report of the Ministry does not mention it, the Estimates Committee had some notion of that problem so far as my district of Murshidabad is concerned. At least 50,000 people, if not more, have come from East Pakistan by exchanging their properties. I must also admit that a similar number of Muslim minorities have gone back by exchanging properties. Go to the border and enquire from the local people what is the rate one has to pay to our policeman and to the border guards on the other side to get oneself transported and transhipped across the Ganga. This is happening and will go on happening. You cannot practically seal the border.

Moreover, when you have already declared that you are not in a position to give rehabilitation benefits to those who come without valid migration certificates, why deny them even the small right of taking shelter in this country? If you stop that, you will break the solemn pledges held out by all responsible Ministers of this government from the time of partition.

As I said, in spite of the fact that all sorts of things have happened in East Pakistan, there are still 80 lakhs of Hindus living there. There are still some very large industrial concerns Indian-owned and a large number of minority people see in the continuance of these big industrial concerns some kind of a symbol that security will still be there. But if my information is correct, it will not be very long before these concerns are either taken over or the proprietors are forced to dispose of their assets and go away. If that happens, whether you like it or not, you will again be saddled with a big problem of refugees, because whatever morals still remain, they will be gone. I tried through the External Affairs Ministry and the Home Ministry to draw the attention of the Government to this problem. I need not relate my experience here; that is not relevant to this Ministry. But I am only conveying this information to the Minister, so that he may take it up with his colleagues in the Cabinet. Something should be done about it. If you can put pressure on the Pakistan Government to treat the minorities with respect and give them due rights, then perhaps something can be done. But I am afraid that will not be possible. As I said the other day, already after the new elections, not a single member of the minority community has been elected either to the National Parliament there or to the East Pakistan Assembly. Government can draw its own conclusions as to what it implies.

So far as their policy of sealing the border is concerned, that is no solution. They have to give it up. Merely dealing leniently with hard cases would not do. That policy will have to be given up.

About the problem of old refugees, I do not want to dilate on it elaborately for want of time. One of the present senior Secretaries in the Rehabilitation Ministry headed an enquiry some ten years back in 1953 or 1954—the Mathroni Committee—with regard to the problem of refugee rehabilitation work in West Bengal. Although ten years have passed and much water has flowed down the Hooghly, nothing much has been done since then. I request the Minister to appoint another such committee, if necessary a high-powered committee, to go round West Bengal and see what has been done with regard to the rehabilitation of refugees. Let them compare the colonies, housing and other amenities. Then they will find that there is a lot of difference. Therefore, the residuary problem as I have said at the out-set, is not a residuary problem. There is a big lag and that has to be made up. Now we find that the Government of West Bengal is trying to disclaim its responsibility and it is throwing all the blame on the Centre. I do not know what the new Minister will say about it. But we would like him at least to recognise that this problem is there and it is yet to be solved.

I would finish by saying a few words on the Dandakaranya Project. The Estimates Committee in its report has pointed out the weaknesses of the Dandakaranya Organisation. It passes my comprehension how such an organisation which was boldly conceived for transforming virgin forest area into a place for real habitation where industries could be developed, where land could be reclaimed and developed, has become a hot bed of bickerings between the top officials. The Estimates Committee has point-

ed out where the basic weakness is. The basic weakness has been the unwillingness of the Minister from the very beginning—I do not blame the present Minister for that—to define what would be the responsibility of the DDA and the responsibility of the different functionaries of the DDA. We have found from the old days of Fletcher, Jenson and Saibal Gupta, a sort of thing goes on which vitiates the atmosphere, which vitiates the atmosphere of this House also, and also demoralises the officials. That should not be allowed to happen. When you have sunk Rs. 29 crores of the taxpayers' money in that project, for God's sake do something about it so that the money is profitably used and the noble purpose for which money has been invested can yet be fulfilled.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a few months after independence and partition—17 years have gone now—the influx of refugees started from East Pakistan to India. It started in a small way, it assumed huge proportions and it is a constant and continual movement that has gone on all this time. I daresay, as a result, there are many in our country who feel, what is it that we can do about it, who feel that there is no finish to this problem and, therefore, the great interest that this House itself took seems to be not so apparent now. Yet, the problem of these who came, because they could not continue to live in Pakistan, is as acute as it was in those days. There are times when there was a small influx and there are times when the exodus assumes the size of a swollen river.

It is a very complex problem, much more complex than the problem of the refugees who came in the western sector, because there is no question of evacuee property here. When the Ministry puts down on its report and makes a suggestion that an equivalent amount has been spent on the west and the east on refugee rehabilitation, they are being unfair

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even to themselves because the problem is not the same. Here there is no evacuee property. In addition to the amount of money that the Ministry of Rehabilitation and the Government of India spends, there was evacuee property on the other side for rehabilitation. There was also a finish to the problem. Here one never knows, as Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri put it, until all of them have come whether there will be a finish to the problem. If that is so, it is more than time that we took heed of this and planned accordingly.

We shut down Ministries and we open them again when the problem becomes acute. This is not the way of grappling with such an enormous problem, with such a human problem, which is actually a human tragedy, enacted before our very eyes, a tragedy too deep to express in words. It is only people who actually meet this new influx of people when one starts on a large scale, it is only people who go to the border and see the people actually arriving or have close contact with them, who have some comprehension of what it really means. Only they can realise that it is not merely a question of figures as to how many have come but it is a question of wounds that can sometimes be never healed at all. Last year I was at Petrapole, Banpur and Hasanabad and also various other places from where refugees were pouring in. I met the women who had faced horrors worse than death, I met the men, women and children on whom many acts of violence had been perpetrated. As a result of that there was some repercussion on this side also. It was a very bad thing. It was a repercussion which the Government of India put down with a firm hand, which the people of India put down with a firm hand. Unfortunately what happened was, the Government of Pakistan did not stop it and, in fact, the Government of Pakistan incites it every time they want to turn the people against India.

Sir, you will not give me enough time and therefore I am going to con-

centrate only on a few items. The first item—others have spoken about it—on which I would like to say a few words is about the residuary problem, the problem of those who came in the earlier days. Shri Chaudhuri mentioned about a report of a Committee which was set up when I was in charge there and which explored the conditions up to end of 1951. It gave its report in 1953 and it was considered and implemented. After that we had also another statistical investigation. But whatever the investigation was, whatever the residuary problem was, in a planned manner it was placed before the Government of India in 1957 and again later. But up to now, I must tell my hon. friend Shri Tyagi, it has not been dealt with properly, and the State Government awaits the sanction.

The problem of the non-camp refugees who came in these problem days, who had not received proper rehabilitation and who had not been absorbed into the economy of West Bengal or any other State, is a problem which must be dealt with. I do not want to recapitulate what others have said. I hope Shri Tyagi and his Ministry will pay all attention to sanctioning the schemes that the West Bengal Government have put up before them. The Central Government says that it is something like a Rs. 22 crores plan. I hope it is going to be sanctioned. I do not know whether it is Rs. 22 crores or a little more. It is not a question of money alone. There is much more involved. The economy of West Bengal and the economy of Tripura are suffering very badly because these problems are not being solved.

Then I come to the question of the new migration which started and about which I have already made a mention. I have seen the people myself. I want to point this out to Shri Tyagi and also plead with him about this.

At different times we have had this eligibility for relief and rehabilitation

in different terms. Sometimes it has been wide in its application, sometimes it has been narrow. But at all times it has been recognised that it is a Central responsibility that the victims of partition will come and the doors must be kept open.

Therefore, I cannot understand, for the life of me, how ever the question arose of closing the doors against those who came without migration certificates. How can you close the doors against these people who are flesh of our flesh and blood of our blood, these people large numbers of whom worked for the freedom of this land but who were deprived of their birthright and left outside, and at whose cost we are today an independent country? How can it be that we forget these things even for a moment? Therefore it is not possible on human considerations, on ethical considerations, to do this. Even if there were people coming from Burma, from Tibet or anywhere else, we cannot close our doors to them when people seek haven and protection in India.

The next important point to remember is that our borders in Bengal and Assam are long borders. You may take any decision you like. But the people there, if they are fleeing from terror and from violence, will come all the same. Through your checkpoints they may not come, but they will come otherwise. They are continuously coming. Hundreds and thousands have come, of whom we have no figures, and therefore we cannot really put a finish like this to this problem. It cannot be solved that way. If we could have brought security to them in Pakistan, if it was within our competence and if we could have brought world opinion to bear so that Pakistan had changed its outlook, that would have been a different thing. That is not possible. Not only has Pakistan not changed its outlook, but today we face very trying times with Pakistan, and each time the minorities are the victim. Let us not forget that.

So it is not a question of a few months more: it is a question of as long as there are non-Muslims in Pakistan. The Buddhists, the Christians, the Hindus, they have all been coming.

Then, Sir, I want to speak about some of the rehabilitation schemes. I am very glad about one scheme which the Government of India has undertaken afresh about which I was very anxious long ago but which has been taken up only now, and that is the exploration and the development of the Middle Andamans for refugee rehabilitation. I understand that there is a committee working on this and that 4,000 acres of land has been reclaimed in this area. I hope that in the entire Andaman Islands, where refugees have settled well, many more will be settled. Of course it cannot cover the problems of large numbers, but it will give to the number that can be fitted in, really good rehabilitation.

Then I would like to call attention to the two reports of the Estimates Committee on Dandakaranya and the new migration. I think they are very good reports. One is about new migrants, about which I have spoken. I think if the recommendations made in this report are taken up by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, they will be doing the right thing.

And in regard to the other one, on Dandakaranya, what shall I say? Sir, I have no time to go into the details. It is one of the saddest tales, this Dandakaranya: the quarrels there, the incompetence that has been shown, the manner in which a dual authority functions, and the manner in which a senior officer who was chairman was driven to resign from there—these things are very sad indeed. And I hope in any case that this Dandakaranya is at least going to be developed in an integrated manner and as an autonomous body. Reclamation of lands which are not suitable for cultivation and giving them out to refugees does not bring about rehabilitation. The only manner in which

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Dandakaranya can be developed in the right way will be to continue what has been initiated in Mana in regard to industrial projects and to carry it on with much greater speed and establish a great many small-scale industries. I am agreed with what Mr. Guha has said about not giving help to the big industrialists on a large scale to start industries. We have had a bitter experience in West Bengal on this in Habra and many other places. I would suggest that the hon. Minister might lay emphasis on small-scale industries and even on cottage industries and try to bring about the development of this area and the rehabilitation of the refugees there to the extent possible through small-scale industries. I hope that this thing will be taken up at once and with speed small-scale industries will be set up to absorb the persons and land parcelled out only after it becomes possible to cultivate and get some adequate yield.

Sir, there are so many things that I would have liked to have spoken about, but there is no time. I commend the recommendations of the Estimates Committee in their Report on Dandakaranya. They contain in detail all that any of us could have said, and they put the whole problem before us in a nutshell and in a most revealing manner—not only the problems but how to overcome the difficulties.

There have been many complaints about the Mana camp and about camps in other parts. I spoke about this once before and I suggested that the experience of the past be utilised as much as possible because there is no doubt, it is no use saying something or denying the fact that human failings are there and therefore it is not possible to do things always as well as the Minister might wish or any of us in this House might wish. But the experience gained over all these years in West Bengal or in Assam or in Tripura should help us in tackling the problem we face in the States, and here I have something to say.

The displaced persons who have gone through such terrible experience need a certain amount of psychological rehabilitation; their feelings must be assuaged. I would plead with those States who have welcomed them to realise that some of the desertions from the camps might be avoided if we could really explain things to them. It is not a question of screening only. There are no doubt many exploiters, persons who get amongst the refugees in the camps and who want to deflect them from remaining there. With that one purpose they get amongst the, and due to the unsettled conditions and the inadequacies prevailing these unhappy, helpless persons, who do not know where to turn, often desert the camps. Therefore, one should deal with them in such a manner that through comforting words and through assurances they may be won back and rehabilitated in a proper manner. And to those States where they have gone and whose people and Government are trying to help them, I would plead with them that they should be tolerant with these people, because they have endured much.

Then there is one point on which I must say a few words—it is a very important point—and after that I will finish. And that is this question of sharing of the losses on loans. Rehabilitation has been accepted as a Central responsibility; so many times, in this House and outside, our leaders have said that rehabilitation of the victims of partition is a Central responsibility. Then why is it that time and again pressure is brought against the State Governments asking them either to bear the whole loss on loans given to refugees for rehabilitation or partial loss or fifty per cent loss? I would like to remind the hon. Minister, Mr. Tyagi, that it was he who as the Minister of State for Finance helped me, and I am ever grateful to him for that help.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** He was a much better man than!

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** I am sure he is the same underneath even now. I think, Sir, it was in 1952 or 1953. Before that, fifty-fifty basis loss on loans to rehabilitation was recognised. I found this an absurd thing when it was the avowed responsibility of the Centre. I came and discussed it with the Central Minister for Finance, Dr. Deshmukh and Mr. Tyagi who was present—Dr. Roy was also there—helped us and it was decided that after 1950 whatever losses on loans were incurred were hundred per cent Central responsibility. At that time it was not possible to get agreement on the pre-1950 losses. As a result of the second Finance Commission report this was also granted. But how was this new decision taken in 1958, of which I came to be aware much later, that now it is the State Government that must bear the responsibility for the losses on loans? The State Government's resources are limited, whether it is the State of West Bengal, Tripura or Assam. It comes to the Centre. How can they possibly bear the losses on loans which is a Central responsibility? I know that a good deal of correspondence is taking place between the Centre and the States on this. I remember those days when I said that it was not possible for me to continue to work and do rehabilitation at all unless this matter was cleared up and it was cleared up in 1953. In 1958 I do not know what happened and why the decision was rescinded. I hope that Mr. Tyagi who is now the Minister and who was responsible to a very great extent in changing that unfair and unjust decision will again change the decision and restore the old conditions in the matter.

Before I conclude I just want to point out to Mr. Tyagi that we all realise the complexity of the problem of rehabilitation when it is a continuous thing. As I said, there is no evacuee property. The whole House will be with him and the country will be with him if with the understand-

ing he had shown in the past—which is not apparent just now—he will tackle this problem and try to help these unfortunate and hapless victims who, due to no fault of their own, have been sacrificed at the altar of Indian independence.

**Shri P. K. Ghosh** (Ranchi East): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to stress upon the Government to withdraw their recent order in which a ban has been put on the migrants from East Pakistan who cross over to India without valid travel documents. On behalf of the Ministry they have put forward as the reason for this ban the infiltration of some fifth-columnists and foreign agents into India along with the refugees. To check this, presumably they have put this ban. But this had been a very hard thing for the poor migrants and *bona fide* refugees who want to cross over to India from East Pakistan. Government have also stressed that they have relaxed certain formalities making it very easy to procure migration certificates from Dacca. This is not a fact. As far as we know there are a large number of uneducated people who come to India, and for them to procure these certificates is very difficult. A large number of persons are living far away from Dacca. To contact the migration authorities in Dacca and procure certificates is difficult for them also. Therefore, I would stress that this ban should be lifted immediately. The Estimates Committee also recommended that this ban should go. I may read a few sentences from the Estimates Committee's report which has been laid on the Table of the House and in which it is said:

"In this case also the Committee feel that this policy decision should have been first announced in Parliament as the Parliament was in session then. The Committee further feel that while Government should take every

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step to prevent infiltration of fifth columnists and saboteurs from East Pakistan, the policy of putting a ban on migration without valid documents will work very hard on the minority community of East Pakistan where conditions are yet far from satisfactory and secure for them and will deny them protection and security in India which they may be compelled to seek particularly for the honour and safety of their women folk”

I also appreciate the danger of fifth columnists infiltrating into this country. But Government should tighten the vigilance and make other arrangements to see that no fifth-columnists and foreign agents enter through the borders along with the refugees.

After the disturbance of January 1964, the average number of migrants from East Pakistan during January-October 1964 was 77,472. Then the Government in October decided to put a ban from 1st October 1964 on persons who would cross the border without valid travel documents, restricting and denying them all the facilities of rehabilitation benefits. After this restriction was imposed, the number went down to 40,641 per month. Nonetheless the number is very high. The Government is putting restriction after restriction, but the number is still not going down. This shows that the condition of minorities in East Pakistan is very insecure and all of them want to come over to India. I feel it is the responsibility of the Government of India and the whole country to see that all should be allowed to come without any difficulty and without any restriction, and proper arrangements should be made here for their rehabilitation.

At the time of partition, our leaders assured that those who wanted to stay in East Pakistan may come to India and all sorts of facilities for

rehabilitation would be extended to them. But, Sir, we find that this is not being done and now we want to shirk the responsibility and we are putting restrictions over their coming and crossing the border of Pakistan. The whole country knows that the people of East Pakistan fought the battle of independence no less than any other State in India. It is unfortunate that while others are reaping the benefits of independence and breathing the free air of independence these poor people, who are the victims of partition, are not able to enjoy the benefits. So, I feel it is the responsibility of every Indian, in fact the whole country, to see that these people are properly rehabilitated when they come to India.

When these people cross the border and enter our country the treatment they receive is far from satisfactory. In the transit camps they are not provided with proper food, clothing and medical facilities. They are given only the barest minimum, and that also not in time. A team of the Estimates Committee which toured some of the transit camps found that essential pre-requisites like cloth, rugs etc. were not supplied to these refugees when they were living in the rehabilitation camps. Although the prices of foodstuffs have gone up considerably, doles are being paid to the refugees at the old scales which were prescribed in 1960—Rs. 65 per month for a family of five. Since the prices have gone up, the Ministry should have considered the revision of the scale of doles, as suggested by the Estimates Committee. It is really unfortunate that while a tongawalla spends Rs. 2 per day for feeding his horse, human beings are not paid per day even Rs. 2 for a family of five. In this connection, I would like to read the recommendation of the Estimates Committee:

“In view of the admitted rise in the price of foodstuffs the Committee suggest that the scales of

cash relief admissible to the migrants during their stay at the Reception on Interception Centres in the States and at the commencement of, and during, their journey to the transit Camps may be reviewed in consultation with the State Governments concerned at an early date so that the scale of cash relief may be related to the minimum requirements of food-stuffs.

They would further suggest that there should be an arrangement for the period review of the scales of relief by a departmental committee to make sure that these are sufficient to cover the prevailing prices of food-stuffs."

The number of fair price shops in these camps is not sufficient. I would request the Ministry to open sufficient number of fair price shops and supply every migrant, or refugee family, with foodstuffs at controlled prices.

In the transit camps there is overcrowding and often more than one family is put in one room. Attending physicians and hospitals are insufficient and consequently the death rate in transit camps is abnormally high.

The Estimates Committee has pointed out that dispersal from the transit camps is very slow. This is because proper arrangements for their rehabilitation are not being made expeditiously. In order to provide employment to these displaced persons, the public sector undertakings should be asked to absorb a fixed percentage of them in class 3 and class 4 posts. Then, a large number of industries are being set up. Whenever any industrialist applies for a licence, a condition should be imposed that in the new establishment at least 10 per cent of the posts should be reserved for refugees. The Rehabilitation Finance Corporation should be given more finance to set up more

small-scale and cottage industries, which are more labour-intensive. Once they are established, they should be made over to the refugee families.

Lastly, I want to mention some facts about DDA. The Estimates Committee has stated that because of not defining the powers of Chairman and Chief Administrator while constituting the DDA, there has been considerable bickering, hampering of the progress of work. The Committee has further stated that there is considerable over-staffing. While we want more money to be allotted to the Rehabilitation Ministry so that the refugees will get more relief, we find that a lot of money is spent on administration. Also, there is lack of co-ordination. Lands are found not suitable for agriculture after a lot of money has been spent on their reclamation. If only proper soil testing had been done before reclamation, this could have been avoided.

In 1960 the Estimates Committee recommended that a master plan should be prepared for DDA. It is unfortunate that Government have delayed it for five years, giving one reason or another. Recently, a high-powered committee was appointed with Shri T. P. Singh as Chairman. After the constitution of this committee, there was great influx and it was decided to get the problem studied by the National Council of Applied Economic Research.

15 hrs.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member's time is up.

**Shri P. K. Ghosh:** Two minutes more, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** You have taken 17 minutes.

**Shri P. K. Ghosh:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have given the time noted. Please wind up.

**Shri P. K. Ghosh:** So, I should stress that a high-power committee should be constituted immediately and the work on the master plan for the DDA should be started as it has a great potential as has been found out by the National Council of Applied Economic Research.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for this opportunity that you have given me because this opportunity may enable me to place before the hon. Members of this House some points, some facts about our Ministry which may help hon. Members to make a more correct and a more objective appraisal of the activities of the Rehabilitation Ministry. I am sorry that most of the important speakers who have spoken before me are not here.

Sir, the Estimates Committee has been referred to by a large number, nearly all the Members who have taken part in this debate; so, I think, you will kindly excuse me if I also follow them and make some reference to that report. The Estimates Committee, after a great deal of inquiries and investigation, have published their report upon the Rehabilitation Ministry in two volumes, which have been circulated to the hon. Members of this House. I am gratified to note that the hon. Chairman of the Estimates Committee, Shri Arun Chandra Guha, has said some kind words of appreciation about the work that is being done and that has been done in the much maligned project, the Dandakaranya.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya (Raiganj):** Much expected.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Certainly much expected. I cannot resist the temptation of quoting what the esteemed Chairman of the Estimates Committee has said in the concluding remarks of his report upon Dandakaranya. This is what Shri Guha said:

"In retrospect, it is only fair to recall that Dandakaranya is a

virgin area where hardly any agriculture in the past has been practised. It, therefore, goes to the credit of the authorities that they have been able to rehabilitate over 7,000 displaced families spread over 144 villages."

I think, this figure of 7,000 displaced families does not tally with that of the hon. lady Member opposite—she is not here—Shrimati Renu Chakravartty.

**Shri Warior (Trichur):** She expected that Shri Tyagi will speak only the next day and she has said that if she is not present when Shri Tyagi speaks, she should be excused because she has an urgent conference to attend.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** All right; I am not going to mention her name. Please excuse me.

Again, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee has said:

"The Committee appreciate the earnest efforts being made by the authorities to bring about improvement in Dandakaranya and they hope that this would be sustained and intensified to kindle hope anew in the hearts of displaced persons who have sacrificed all their earthly possessions so that India could be free."

I tender my grateful thanks on behalf of the officers and men of Dandakaranya and on behalf of the Central Ministry of Rehabilitation to the Chairman of the Estimates Committee for the kind words of appreciation that he has said. Sir, a few sentences of appreciation often encourage a great deal the officers and men who are grappling today, who are struggling hard with enormous odds in a project like Dandakaranya. I am grateful to the Chairman of the Estimates Committee.

But I am constrained to say that even a noble-hearted senior Member

like Shri Guha has not done full justice to us and what he has given us by his right hand he has taken away by his left. In his speech he has said that nothing much has been done in Dandakaranya. I feel that perhaps after writing the report which contains many unkind references about Dandakaranya, the hon. Chairman of the Estimates Committee felt the sting of conscience and tried to amend it and to satisfy his conscience he bestowed upon us some words of charity; or, it may be that the Chairman of the Estimates Committee followed the principle: Spare the rod and spoil the child. Anyhow, I am thankful to him.

Much has been said about the quarrel or the bickerings between the high officials of Dandakaranya and I must place before the hon. Members the facts about what had happened. Although one of the involved parties, the last Chairman, Shri Gupta, is not here and I had no mind to take his name in this House, I have got no other alternative because the question has been raised again and again, practically by every hon. Member; so, I must clarify the position of Government about this matter.

When the Dandakaranya Development Authority, the DDA, was established in the year 1958, it was the intention of Government that this authority should enjoy a considerable amount of autonomy. In order to do that they bestowed certain powers by resolution of Government upon the DDA. It was the intention that the DDA as an autonomous body will delegate the powers to the Chairman and to the Chief Administrator as they like. This was the autonomy given to the DDA. At first, there was a part-time Chairman and the question of demarcating the powers between the Chairman and the Chief Administrator did not arise at all. But, when a permanent Chairman came, that is, when the late Shri Sukumar Sen became the Chairman, the DDA took the decision that when the DDA will not be in session, the

Chairman will exercise all the powers of the Authority. Then, in January 1963 when the Chairman, Shri Sukumar Sen, was ailing, in a meeting the DDA decided about the respective powers to be exercised by the Chairman and the Chief Administrator. After a few months Shri Sukumar Sen died and then Shri Saibal Gupta became the Chairman of Dandakaranya. From the very beginning his mind was working under the impression or under the idea that unless he got all the power he would not be able to discharge the heavy responsibility that was entrusted to him; but, as the power was delegated by Government to the DDA, he had to approach the Authority for more powers and he did so, but the Authority turned down his suggestion. The DDA was not prepared to listen to the entreaties of the Chairman and they were not prepared to give the powers that he required. What Mr. Gupta required was that as the Government has delegated the powers to the DDA so the DDA, instead of delegating the powers and dividing the powers between the two Officers, the Chairman and the Chief Administrator, should delegate full powers to the Chairman and the Chairman in his turn delegate whatever power he likes to his subordinates. This was not acceptable to the DDA. Dissatisfied with that decision of the DDA, Mr. Saibal Gupta approached the Ministry. But the Ministry also approved the decision of the DDA. They made it quite plain to Mr. Gupta that the Government has delegated the power to the DDA and it is the DDA who will delegate the power in the way they like and the Ministry does not want to interfere in that. This was clarified in the August meeting of the DDA by my senior colleague, Mr. Tyagi, in his inaugural address to the meeting of the DDA. This clarification of the Minister of Rehabilitation proved to be the last straw on the camel's back and Mr. Gupta resigned.

The Estimates Committee has referred to this matter and has complained

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that the Government wanted to shirk the responsibility, that the Government wanted to avoid the responsibility. I do not understand at what stage the Government avoided the responsibility. Whenever any reference was made to them, they made it clear what they wanted to say. They made it clear to Mr. Gupta that they are not going to interfere with the autonomy of the Authority and it is the DDA which is entitled to delegate the powers and to divide the powers between the Chief Administrator and the Chairman. The Government did not like to avoid the responsibility and whenever they were required to act they acted in the way that was considered advisable to them.

Another point on which an adverse comment was made by the Estimates Committee was that the Government have made the DDA a department of their own. At first the Committee complains of inaction on the part of the Government and that they have not taken steps to prevent these internal bickerings. Then, when the Ministry takes action, they complain that the Ministry has taken rough and harsh action and that the whole of DDA has become a Government department. I do not know which views of the Committee to accept. But as the Committee is a Parliamentary Committee, I must restrain my tongue in using my language about that Committee.

**Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi):** Which Committee?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Estimates Committee.

**Shri Mohan Swarup (Pilibhit):** As a member of the Estimates Committee, I want to know whether they have reported anything wrong.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** I don't say that. But I have said what I wanted to say.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He has explained the position also.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Mrs. Renu Chakravarty has said that the overhead expenditure in the DDA is much. According to financial experts, in a project like the DDA 30 per cent expenditure on administration is the highest admissible limit. I may assure this House that for the last two or three years this limit has not been exceeded.

At the very beginning, Sir, the expenditure might have been a little more in proportion to the actual work done. That is because in the beginning, the DDA thought that a large number of refugees would come and they made grand preparations. Then there were 4 Superintending Engineers and one Chief Engineer and similarly other staff also. They were having staff on the anticipation that a large number of refugees would come to Dandakaranya. They were playing Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. The DDA was set up in 1958 and in the year 1958-59 they thought that 2,760 families of refugees would come; but the actual number of refugees families that came was 321. Next year, in 1959-60 it was anticipated that 5,640 families would come; instead came 1,476 families—only one-fourth. In the year 1960-61 it was anticipated that 9,600 families would reach Dandakaranya, but only 577 families came. That is why the expenditure was a little more in relation to the work done. Then, the late Mr. Sukumar Sen, who was the Chairman then,—he was a great administrator—himself personally went to Bengal camps—the refugee camps in Bengal—and entreated the refugees, requested them and cajoled them to come to Dandakaranya and ultimately he succeeded in bringing them to Dandakaranya in greater numbers.

Some allegation has been made in many quarters that we are indulging in extravagance in the DDA, that the expenditure is very high in relation to the rehabilitation of the D.Ps. Sir, the DDA has got two purposes. One

is integrated development of the area and another is rehabilitation of the refugees. So it cannot be expected that every pie that the DDA spends should be spent on refugees. We have taken upon ourselves the responsibility to develop the area and a large chunk of the money must be spent for the development of that area. Moreover, what is the yardstick by which you are going to measure whether there is extravagance or not. Since the inception of DDA, the DDA has re-settled on land 8,200 D.P. families—this is uptodate. I would like very much that the hon. lady Member was there. She said that we have given land to 5,600 families only and she practically challenged me on that. I am too small a man to accept her challenge, but I wanted to give the correct figures we have with us and also to tell her that I would like to avail of the earliest opportunity to take her to Dandakaranya and show her what has been done. In her previous speech on this subject, if my memory does not betray me, the hon. lady Member said that she had visited Dandakaranya in the year 1959. Much water has passed beneath the bridge of Jumna . . .

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:** Indravati.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Or Sabri, or better say Hooghli.

**Shri P. K. Deo:** He is talking about so much of development in Dandakaranya. But not even a single pie has been spent in my district which forms one of the three districts of Dandakaranya.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Kalahandi! I am sorry to say that Kalahandi has not been practically taken up under the DDA.

**Shri P. K. Deo:** This is one of the three districts.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** We are working in Koraput district of Orissa and Bastar

district of Madhya Pradesh. For some reason or other, no land has been released in Kalahandi district.

**Shri Tyagi:** So far.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** I would like to place before the hon. members of this House what has been done in Dandakaranya. Uptill now, the DDA have resettled on lands more than 8,200 D. P. families. They have also rehabilitated tribal families. That is to say, they have paid for 1,845 tribal families for rehabilitation purposes. They have paid money and other things to the State Government and the State Government has done the work of rehabilitation. The funds for their rehabilitation have come from the DDA. Then, Sir, they have reclaimed 1,00,512 acres of jungle virgin lands. They have built 160—now it has gone up by another 10—170 new villages for the rehabilitation of D.Ps. 50 tribal villages have also been built with funds that have been given to the State Government from the DDA funds. Then, 5489 houses have been built with corrugated iron sheets. They have dug 110 tanks in the displaced persons' villages and 21 tanks for tribals. They have also set up 191 schools. Some hon. Member had said that nothing had been done about education. I would like to tell him that these are our figures. There are 191 schools with 13050 students; the number of primary schools is 185, the number of secondary schools is 5, and there is one high school; another high school building is being constructed, and we hope that within two months that building will be constructed and the high school will be ready. We have set up three hospitals including one tuberculosis hospital; we have set up 13 dispensaries including in-door-beds. We have given treatment to 25,44,163 patients. Nurses have been trained in our hospitals. We have eradicated malaria from the area. We have built up 172 miles of pucca roads. The total mileage comes to about 511 miles including the link road to the Danda-

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karanya villages. The total number of culverts that have been built is 570; the total number of bridges that have been built is 69.

Now, the House can judge whether the Dandakaranya Development Authority has misspent the money or wasted the money.

It has been said that agriculture has suffered a lot and nothing has been done for the development of agriculture in Dandakaranya, I am afraid that the few minutes that I have got will not be enough to speak about Dandakaranya. But I want to speak something about the residuary problem also before going to that.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty made a few sweeping remarks and condemned every activity of this Ministry. She gave us some statistics also. I do not know what the sources of her statistics is. But the amusing thing that she told us was that not a single pie had been given to the West Bengal Government during the last year, that is, 1964-65, for residuary problems. I have got with me some figures. For aquisition of land in 1964-65, on one occasion Rs. 18,000 had been given. 'Given' means 'sanctioned'. Then, for development of colonies, Rs. 91,000 have been sanctioned. Then, for repairs in the Bonhooghly colony, Rs. 75,000 have been given. That comes to a total of Rs. 1.84 lakhs.

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee** (Burdwan): How much has been paid actually? Has all the amount been paid or only sanctioned?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** I am sorry that the figure is not with me now.

As regards grants, for the construction of 212 primary schools, the amount given is Rs. 17.45 lakhs; for reorientation of primary schools, the amount given is Rs. 1.5 lakhs; grants

to higher secondary schools amount to Rs. 8.13 lakhs; grants to cultural institutions amount to Rs. 2 lakhs; grants for non-tuberculosis beds come to Rs. 28 lakhs. The whole thing comes to a total of about Rs. 59 lakhs.

If hon. Members pass our Demands and approve of them, then the following sums will be given for dealing with the residuary problem during the current year, that is, during 1965-66. For residuary schemes with type loans the amount is Rs. 25 lakhs; for compensation for acquisition of land the amount is Rs. 40 lakhs, for development of colonies Rs. 25 lakhs, for municipal loans Rs. 6.56 lakhs, for industrial loans Rs. 3.5 lakhs, and for market schemes Rs. 2.5 lakhs; the total comes to about Rs. 102.56 lakhs. The grant for education would be Rs. 20 lakhs, and that for medical facilities would be about Rs. 30 lakhs, thus making a total of about Rs. 100 lakhs.

**Shri Prabhat Kar** (Hooghly): Shrimati Renu Chakravarty had read out a statement made by the West Bengal Rehabilitation Minister on the floor of the West Bengal Assembly that not a single rupee had been paid by the Central Government during this year.

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** That is the source of her information.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** About agricultural development, I would like to place before hon. Members certain facts. There is nothing farther from truth than to say that agriculture has been neglected in Dandakaranya, because the original conception and the whole plan, the whole programme and the whole project depended on agriculture. Originally it was proposed that agriculturist families in West Bengal camps would be settled upon agricultural lands in Dandakaranya. So, agriculture from the very beginning has received great attention in that project. It has been said that the

soil there is poor. If we compare the soil there with that in riverine areas, in the Indo-Gangetic plains, with the soil in Punjab, Bihar or Bengal or the soil in the deltaic regions of the Godavari, the Krishna, the Cauvery etc., the soil in the Dandakaranya area is certainly poor. Nobody denies that the soil of Dandakaranya is inferior to the soil in the deltaic regions or in the riverine areas or the alluvial soil on the banks of the rivers of India. But the soil there is good if it is properly handled. Moreover, the lands in Dandakaranya are not all fit for paddy cultivation. It is only the low-lying areas which are fit for paddy growing or paddy cultivation. The upper lands are fit for growing other things, for example, money crops, jute, mesta which is a kind of jute, oilseeds *arhar*, maize, tapioca, turmeric, gingili etc. All these things are grown in ample measure in the upper regions of the lands in Dandakaranya.

About 40,000 people are living in the newly established villages of Dandakaranya. How are they living today, and how are they making their livelihood? It is through agriculture. If agriculture, if cultivation had not been there, if they could not get their sustenance from agriculture, they could not have lived there.

The displaced persons' families which have been resettled in Dandakaranya villages are given six and two third acres of land, a large homestead plot, one pair of bullocks, and one full set of agricultural implements and seeds and manures. Formerly, the amount that was given by way of loan for seeds and manures was Rs. 125; now that amount has been raised to Rs. 290. Then, all pest control operations are done by the Authority without any charges. Then, there is an extensive agricultural extension organisation. For every five villages there is an agricultural extension officer. He has got one demonstration centre under him for every five villages. There is one *sewak* in charge of every village,

and the *sewak* has to maintain an agricultural register in which he has to enter the name of every settler, the date on which the monsoon begins, the date on which he ploughs the field, the date on which he sows the seed, weeds the field etc., and besides all these the personality of the man and his industriousness and interest in the land etc. are recorded systematically in that register. Still, if we are told that we have neglected agriculture, then it makes a painful hearing.

Now I want to say a few words about irrigation. Much has been said about our failure to take steps for arranging irrigation in the area. One of the dams, as has been mentioned by one hon. Member, the Bhaskal dam, is nearing completion. It has cost us more than Rs. 1 crore. The complaint has been made that only a little portion of the commandable area belongs to the refugees. That is true. The maximum benefit goes to the Adivasis there. We must bear in mind that Dandakaranya was created not for rehabilitation of refugees only, but for the development of the area also. So if there is one scheme in which the maximum benefit goes to the local people, there is nothing to grumble.

The Pakhanjore dam is completed and the canal systems are now being dug. Water will be impounded this year and the benefits will accrue. As regards two comparatively big dams, each costing above Rs. 2 crores, all the data have been collected and investigations made. About the Satiguda dam in the Malkangiri area of the Koraput district, all clearance and directions had been given. We could begin the work. Experts now say that if the greater Sabri basin multi-purpose schemes comes into effect, which is a much bigger scheme, then these Rs. 2 crores which will be spent for the Satiguda dam will be infructuous. For this reason, until we get clearance from the experts, we cannot start this dam.

[Dr. M. M. Das]

There is another proposal. All the investigations have been completed of the Paralkote dam scheme, in the Bastar district. The CWPC have given their approval. Now administrative sanction is necessary.

So far as the small irrigation schemes are concerned . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** You may leave that to your colleague.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** It has been complained that nothing has been done. The geological report tells us that in the whole Dandakaranya there is a subsoil stratum of thick rock, a granite sheet and there is very little water-bearing area. In spite of this handicap, we are trying our best to develop some small irrigation schemes.

15.33 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SIXTY-SECOND REPORT

**Shri Muthiah** (Tirunelveli): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Sixty-second Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 7th April, 1965".

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Sixty-second Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 7th April, 1965".

*The motion was adopted.*

15.33½ hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: DEVELOPMENT OF CALCUTTA METROPOLITAN AREA—contd.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The House will now proceed with the further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri H. N. Mukerjee on the 26th March, 1965:

"This House is of opinion that a comprehensive and self-contained scheme for the development of the Calcutta metropolitan area should find priority in the Fourth Plan".

1 hour and 29 minutes are left for this Resolution. Shri Mukerjee.

**Shri A. C. Guha** (Barasat): It is a very important subject. The time may be extended.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Other resolutions will be blocked.

**Shri Prabhat Kar** (Hooghly): The second Resolution may be moved.

**Shri P. K. Deo** (Kalahandi): Dr. Singhvi is not here.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Let us go on now. We will see.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee** (Calcutta Central): **Mr. Deputy-Speaker,** last time I placed this Resolution before the House not out of any parochial consideration, not merely because I have had the privilege personally of having represented Calcutta in this House since 1952, but because Calcutta is *India's City*. That indeed is the title of a valuable little book by our Registrar-General, **Shri Ashok Mitra**. Calcutta is *India's City*.

The national importance of Calcutta is seen from such facts as that it draws its labour force from all over the country. I am quoting from the Registrar-General's book:

"An average of 61 per cent in all factories in 1960 and a little