

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: I repudiate the allegations made by the hon. Member. It is not as if we are after honest officers. In that specific case which the hon. Member has mentioned, it is a normal and routine transfer that takes place for any officer. So it has been done in the case of Mrs. Kiran Bedi also. It does not mean that since she is an honest officer and that she has taken down the numbers of Ministers' cars, that it has been done. I strongly repudiate the insinuation made by the hon. Member.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: All right, if not insinuation, it is a direct allegation.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: A criminal police officer must be taken to task.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question—Shri S. B. Sidal....

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev....

Next question—Shri Amar Roypradhan.

Migration of persons from Assam to West Bengal after recent Elections

*434. **SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:**
SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that persons who were settled in Assam State have been entering into West Bengal State after violence occurred in Assam during the recent Parliamentary and Assembly elections in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action Government propose to take in the matter;

(c) whether the Central Government have provided any financial assistance and assistance in other forms to the West Bengal Government to meet the alarming situation in that State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b). According to the West Bengal Government about 25,000 persons have arrived in West Bengal till 23-3-1983 due to recent disturbances in Assam. The Government of Assam have been requested to take necessary steps to facilitate their early return to Assam.

(c) and (d). Central Government have agreed to provide financial assistance in respect of expenditure incurred by the West Bengal Government for running relief camps for a period of one month to begin with.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: If you go through the replies, particularly, (c) and (d), you will find that on the one hand Government is saying that Government of Assam have been requested to take necessary steps to facilitate their early return to Assam and, on the other, they are saying that they have agreed to provide financial assistance in respect of expenditure incurred by the West Bengal Government for running relief camps for a period of one month to begin with. It is a matter of great regret for the Central Government.

You know, Sir, mass killing is going on in Assam everyday and thousands of Assam refugees are coming to West Bengal and Arunachal everyday. From the information which I have collected, in West Bengal alone, from 18th February to 28th March, 1983, 27,600 are staying in different camps. Since 1980 January alone—when Mrs. Gandhi came to power—11,444 Assam refugees are staying in Dangi, Jasodanga and Jorai camps in West Bengal. According to official report, about 15,000 are staying in their relatives' houses. It is a heavy burden to be borne by the West Bengal Government. You are saying that to begin with the running of relief camps is for a period of one month.

In the last Assam debate in this House, the hon. Minister, Shri Sethi, assured the

House that they will bear the entire expenditure as far as running the refugee camps is concerned.

I would like to know very clearly and categorically from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government is ready to bear the entire expenditure such as for construction of camps, clothings, milk, baby food, medicines and Rs. 5 in cash and 2-1/2 k.g. of wheat or rice per week per adult?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Initially, 11,000 people had come which was in 1980. For that purpose, Rs. 50 lakhs were released to West Bengal. Now, 15,925 persons have further crossed and the number now is somewhere between 25,000 and 26,000.

Only a couple of days back, we have received from West Bengal Government the estimate of expenditure which they are likely to incur. That matter is under examination. We would certainly consider it. The time limit, as we have answered in the main question, is initially for one month. If it is necessary to extend it, we shall certainly extend it.

As far as second part of the question is concerned, we do not want to make permanent types of refugee camps there. Already two high officers from Assam have visited these camps. Now two ministers are already there and they are making all efforts to persuade them to come back. And camps are being organised on the borders of West Bengal where they can be housed conveniently and where the Assam Government would be able to look after them. The West Bengal Government, I hope, would be helpful in also persuading them to return back.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Certainly. The West Bengal Government always cooperates with you in this regard.

You know, Sir, among these Assam refugees who are staying in West Bengal, there are Hindus, Muslims, scheduled castes and tribes. They are not only of Bengali origin but they are of Gorkha and

Bihar origin also. For the information of the hon. Member, Shri Vajpayee, there are people who are of Bihar origin.

MR. SPEAKER: How is he concerned with Bihar? (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He comes from Cooch Behar. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: There are Government employees and there are large number of school teachers and landholders—those who possess lands for the last hundred years even.

But, in a statement issued by the Conveners of All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad, Shri Atul Bora and Shri Biraj Sharma said:

“While none from Assam had sneaked into West Bengal, . . . the West Bengal Government is making efforts to push vagabonds and foreign nationals into Assam.”

So, I would like to know very clearly and categorically from the hon. Minister whether he holds the same view that the Government of West Bengal is making efforts to push vagabonds and foreign nationals into Assam? If not, whether the Assam evacuees who are staying in West Bengal and Arunachal will be taken back to Assam before setting up the tribunal and finalising the procedure and modalities to detect foreign nationals in Assam?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Sir, as far as the first part of his question is concerned I would like to say that Government is aware of certain objectionable statements having been made by certain Assam evacuees who are staying in different camps in West Bengal. This news was published in *Assam Tribune*. It is unfortunate that such statements have been made. We have already told the West Bengal Government that we will provide necessary assistance to the West Bengal Government for relief being given to the refugees who have entered West Bengal.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Sir, I also asked whether the refugees will be taken back in Assam before setting up of the tribunal?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: This has been stated by the Home Minister that all efforts are being made to bring back these people as early as possible.

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA: I would like to know what positive steps have been taken to tighten the security measures to protect the lives and property of Non-Ahomias in Assam just to stop inflow of Assam evacuees? Secondly, whether a parliamentary team will be sent there?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: How can the MPs go there?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Most of the MPs are visiting.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: But the Chief Minister said, "Please, don't come."

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Because it will affect rehabilitation programmes....

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The request was only for a few days.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: It is well-known to all of us as to what happened in Assam. Now, the situation is coming under control and we are making all efforts to see that every life of every citizen is secured in Assam.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, the Minister has replied to the question of Mr. Roypradhan and also in reply to my letter written to the Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee has also written to me that the expenditure will be borne for one month. But the question is West Bengal Government has already incurred the expenditure. They are going through the expenditure. Do you propose to give some advance so that the present expenditure can be met? The second point is that you have said it for one month but these camps may continue for long till conditions for their return

are normal. So, are you going to take the responsibility of the total expenditure till normal conditions return and they return back?

Sir, my second question is addressed to the Prime Minister. Has she taken note of the fact that in the United Nations this question was raised by Shri Agha Shah? What is the reaction of the Government of India to taking it to the U.N.?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, these are two separate questions and one does not flow out of the other. As far as the refugees' expenditure is concerned we are already in touch with the Finance Ministry and, I hope, some decision will be taken soon. This is a human problem and we cannot take a rigid attitude that we will extend facility only for a month. If necessary, to save human life we will have to extend the time. With regard to the other question it is for the External Affairs Minister to reply.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, the Prime Minister should answer. It is very important.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): We always take appropriate action in such cases. But it is true that not only there but in other international forums people are trying to raise this question, obviously because they want to create animosity towards India in this particular situation.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Why did the ambassador go and explain?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: What has happened in Assam is deplorable. We all condemn it in the strongest possible language. But, Sir, it has to be seen in proper perspective. Also nothing should be done or said which vitiates the atmosphere for the future. We have to save the lives of our citizens of the minorities and of the majority communities and the kind of propaganda that is being made is not helpful.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: The ambassador went and testified.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: No. He did not.