

Shri Venkataraman: If you had not allowed Dr. Lanka Sundaram to raise this point, I would not have referred to it.

Mr. Chairman: My difficulty is this. If I allow the hon. Member to discuss this now and another hon. Member wants to reply to him (Mr. Venkataraman) I would be unable to stop him. So, I am nipping the evil in the bud. He may confine his remarks to the other parts of the case.

Shri Venkataraman: I bow to your ruling. I only wanted to correct a misapprehension. Anyhow, the cases are being taken up with the Ministry concerned and I do hope that justice would be done.

I have only one other point to make, and that is that whatever may have been the reasons and the circumstances under which these rules came into existence, the time has now come for re-examining whether they should be continued. The situation in the country has improved. The number of strikes and lock-outs have gone down. Even the report of the Labour Ministry would show that the situation with regard to industrial production and industrial peace has shown considerable improvement. If that is so, Government may re-examine the position and find out whether these rules are necessary at all, and if they think that they are necessary, whether the rigours of the rules may be modified. I think that some of the provisions of the rules may be easily modified in the light of changed circumstances. I therefore appeal to Government to reconsider the matter.

Mr. Chairman: There are only three minutes to 7 o'clock and at 7 o'clock we shall have the half-an-hour discussion. I suggest that this resolution may stop here and may be taken up on the next non-official day.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Can you not call upon someone to speak for these few minutes?

Mr. Chairman: That would be giving him a right to speak on the next occasion. I do not want to do that. I suggest that we start the half-an-hour discussion.

EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEE WOMEN'S HOME AT CHUNAR

Mr. Chairman: We shall now take up the half-an-hour discussion. I want to suggest that since the time allotted is only half-an-hour and six or seven

hon. Members are desirous of taking part, the opener may take five minutes and the others two or three minutes. I think the hon. Minister will require ten minutes.

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): Ten minutes will do.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. T. K. Chaudhuri is going to open the discussion. Will he be satisfied with five minutes or would he require more time?

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): I will take ten minutes.

Mr. Chairman: There are three other hon. Members who want to take part. They will have to be satisfied with a minute or so. I think those who want to take part should only put questions and nothing more.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: The main purpose in my seeking to raise this discussion in the House is to draw the attention of the hon. House to the condition of the inmates of the East Pakistan refugee women's home at Chunar, in the wider background of the misgivings in the minds of the public in Bengal about the treatment meted out to East Bengal refugees when they are taken out of West Bengal. I do not say that all these misgivings are always warranted by facts, but the existence of these misgivings is a fact and I feel in the background of what has happened in Chunar the authorities should have been more careful and should have given more attention to the administration of this Camp.

You know, Sir, that conditions of living of the women inmates of the Chunar Camp was referred to by the hon. Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani in the course of the Budget debate on Rehabilitation on the 21st of March last, on the basis of certain information given to her by another hon. Member, Shrimati Uma Nehru. She informed us that these girls who were taken to Chunar were given only one set of clothes in six months. Mrs. Uma Nehru also confirmed this and said that they did not have even proper winter clothes in the biting cold of Chunar. She informed us further that she had given this report to the hon. the Rehabilitation Minister and she expressed the hope that the hon. the Rehabilitation Minister must have, by the time she was speaking, taken steps to redress this state of affairs. We do not know what the hon. Minister did, but evidently the passing of the winter and the advent of spring and summer

solved the question of lack of warm clothes at least. But there were other grievances with regard to food, with regard to insufficient rations. It was reported that every day there was shortage of food for 20 to 25 inmates of the camp. There were grievances of lack of supply of soap and other amenities.

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I do not say that these amenities were not provided by the Government, but there was something wrong in the administration of the camp which somehow or other led to the denial of these amenities, in actual practice, to these wretched girls.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Pratapgarh Distt.—West cum Rae Bareli Distt.—East): There is no quorum.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): His own party people are not present.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): You better look back and speak please.

An Hon. Member: The Government is not here.

Mr. Chairman: Now there is quorum. The hon. Member may go on.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Anyway it seems that the girl students went on strike several times even before the recent disturbances took place which was either put down forcibly or they were persuaded to withdraw those strikes on false hopes and assurances that were given to them. I understand that several representations were made to the higher authorities also which produced absolutely no results. In the end it seems from the 1st of March or some time before that a new lady-principal was appointed when the conditions improved a bit and we are told that most of the girls seemed to feel that at least their grievances with regard to food and other things were being redressed gradually. I do not know what happened in the mean time, but this new lady-principal was transferred to some other place and the old lady-principal was again reinstated. Then the girls went on a strike on the 18th. We are told they were forcibly taken out of the camp and they had to live for five days without any food or shelter in a spot near the Chunar railway station. On the 23rd or 24th they were suddenly again taken back to the camp forcibly, and we are told that they were beaten and some force and violence was used against these young girls. About 250 of them were there and they were mostly of the ages of 11 to 16.

I do not have the time to go into the details, but this is a very serious matter. These girls were all very young girls. Why they were allowed to go out of the camps and why they were again taken back into the camps with police help in police trucks, jeeps and lorries forcibly, it surpasses all imagination.

Then after a few days some 26 or 27 of them were arrested. We do not know who arrested them, on what charges and who were the arresting authorities. And it is not known up till now where they are kept at present; they were taken to an unknown destination.

My main question to the hon. Minister is: why were the conditions in the Chunar camp allowed to deteriorate to such an extent? No steps were taken to see that the legitimate grievances of these very young and tender girls were redressed in proper time.

I would like to put another question. There has been a large measure of misgiving in the minds of the people of my State about the treatment that is meted out to Bengal refugees taken from West Bengal. The hon. Minister is probably not unaware of that fact and he should have been more careful. But it seems evidently he allowed things to drift on. With these few words, I resume my seat.

Mr. Chairman: There are three more persons who have signed this requisition for discussion paper. Does anyone of them want to raise questions?

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): May I know whether on previous occasions, before the 3rd of March, any complaints were received by the said Mrs. Mitra about the food, clothing, system of teaching, etc. and whether any of them were forwarded to the Rehabilitation Ministry by her?

Is it a fact that the quality and the quantity of the food and other amenities were improved after the taking over of the Chunar Home administration by the said Miss Kalsi and immediately there was an antagonisation between the staff and the student refugees?

On the third night, it is alleged that Miss Kalsi became unconscious. Is it a fact that the first medical help which was brought to her at 2 o'clock in the morning was by the refugees in company with the chowkidar who got the nearest doctor and not by the staff itself and what was the reason for this? Was it that medical help was delayed by the staff who were in a responsible position?

[Shrimati Renu Chakravarty]

There is another point which is of very great importance. In view of the fact that these things have happened and in view of the fact that the Chunar Home is dealing chiefly with women refugees, whether Government is going to enquire into the whole matter and take the help of Advisers or they are going to appoint an Advisory Committee to look after and help in the running of this rehabilitation centre?

Lastly, the Bengal Government in the Assembly said that they know nothing about what has happened to these people because once refugees go outside Bengal, they have absolutely nothing to do with them. This is a very serious situation, because they are people from Bengal and when the Bengal people ask the Bengal Government about it, the Bengal Government just gives an answer like that without seeing or trying to find out what the situation is. These are the few questions which I wanted to ask.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): In view of certain incidents which adversely affect the Government policy of rehabilitating East Bengal refugees outside Bengal, does Government propose to hold an enquiry by Members of Parliament belonging to all parties and may I know how many of the inmates have been arrested in connection with these incidents and, if possible, the charges against them?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Tushar Chatterjee: absent. Shrimati Uma Nehru.

श्रीमती उमा नेहरू (ज़िला सीतापुर व ज़िला खेरी—पश्चिम): जनाब चैयरमैन साहब, यह चुनार का किस्सा जो इस हाउस के समाने आया है, मुझे बहुत दःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है, कि यह सारा बनाया हुआ किस्सा है और मुझे रंज है कि जो भी कन्स्ट्रक्टिव (रचनात्मक) काम हम करते हैं कुछ न कुछ हमारे पीछे एक आफत सी लगी हुई रहती है। मैं आप को यह बताऊँ कि मैं खुद उस होम में गयी थी जहाँ पर कलसी थी जिस का चर्चा आप आज सुन रहे हैं।

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Is this a question or a speech?

Mr. Chairman: She is giving information.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: She is making a speech. Can we also make speeches?

Mr. Chairman: No question of speeches.

Shri Algu Rai Shastri (Azamgarh Distt.—East cum Ballia Distt.—West). She is giving information.

Shrimati Uma Nehru: I do not want to take the time of the House. मैं

खाली दो एक पॉइन्ट (point) बताती हूँ।

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I would like to know one thing. In future, if such a discussion takes place, please do not limit us to questions. Let us also be given the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Chairman: On the point to which the discussion relates, the persons who know something about that must take part and must inform the House as to how things have happened. This is the real purpose of the discussion.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Then do not limit us to put questions only. We should put our case.

Mr. Chairman: If I allow all these persons to make speeches, it means that it would go beyond half an hour. Then, the real purpose of the discussion is lost.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: We are losing time, Sir.

Shri Punnoose: Last time, when we...

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. I request the hon. Member to be brief.

श्रीमती उमा नेहरू: जनाब चैयरमैन साहब, मैं दावे से बोल रही हूँ, क्योंकि मेरा सुपरविशन का चार्ज है। यह मज़ाक नहीं है। मैं आप को बता हूँ कि मैं इन दूसरी तरफ के लोगों को देखती हूँ तो मुझे कहना पड़ता है कि खुदा की मार इन पर है और इन की अक्ल पर भी। इन की समझ में नहीं आता कि एक मकान हम ने तैयार किया, एक कन्स्ट्रक्टिव काम हमारा है और वे यहाँ उस को नष्ट करने के लिये खड़े हुए हैं। मैं उनको यह बता देती हूँ कि यह जो कन्स्ट्रक्टिव काम हम कर रहे हैं वे इसे नष्ट नहीं कर पावेंगे।

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What are these charges. These are very objectionable charges. We strongly object.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. This is not the way in which objection should be taken.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I make a submission, Sir?

Mr. Chairman: There is no question of submission. The hon. Member Shrimati Renu Chakravartty is making a speech. If an hon. Member wants to object to the manner of speech of another Member, this is not the way. I can understand the insinuation made by the Member and I can understand her (Shrimati Renu Chakravartty's) feelings also. Let Shrimati Uma Nehru complete her speech. (*Interruptions*). Order, order. I request the hon. Member Shrimati Uma Nehru not to indulge in advice or indulge in invectives. Here is a discussion. She knows something about it. Let her say that and give the information. This is not the time when advice can be given or any sort of aspersions can be made on this or that matter.

श्रीमती उमा नेहरू: मैं, जनाब चेयरमैन साहब, ऐडवाइस देने खड़ी नहीं हुई हूँ, क्योंकि मैं ऐडवाइस उन को दूंगी जिनके कुछ दिमाग हों। लेकिन मुझे आपसे सिर्फ यह कहना है कि मैं उस मकान से डील कर रही हूँ, उस अपने कुटुम्ब से जिसकी मैं माँ हूँ। और आज मेरे उस घर में कोई बाहर वाला छिप कर आवे तो मैं जरूर दखल दूंगी।

मुझे आप से एक बात कहनी है कि जिस वक्त हमारे कामरेड भाई और कामरेड बहन वहाँ घुसीं और वहाँ देखा और कलसी का, जिसका चर्चा है, तो मुझे अक्सोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है, मैं कहना नहीं चाहती थी कि कलसी जो वहाँ पर अपने आप को स्थापित करना चाहती थी। पृष्ठ रज है कि जो मेरी रिफ्यूजी बहनें वहाँ ईस्टर्न पाकिस्तान से मुसीबत में आईं उनके लिये यह नई मुसीबत पैदा हुई। मिसेज मित्रा जो वहाँ नौकर रखी गयी हैं, वह मैं आप को बताऊँ कि निहायत रिलायबल (विश्वास्नीय), ग्रानैस्ट (ईमानदार) और निहायत ट्रस्टफुल

(विश्वस्त) स्त्री है। वह उस इंस्टीट्यूशन की माँ हैं। वह वहाँ से छट्टी पर गई हुई थीं। छट्टी के बाद जब वह वापस हमारे यहाँ आती हैं तो यह आफ़त खड़ी होती है। कलसी जो एक टैम्पोरेरी औरत रखी गई थी, और जो पूरी बात जानते हैं उन्हें पता है कि कलसी ने किस तरह वहाँ इन्तज़ाम किया अपने आप को स्थापित रखने का, जिस की बजह से यह सब तमाशा और झगड़ा हुआ।

जहाँ कमजोरी होती है वहाँ ये मित्रघुस पड़ते हैं। मैं ज्यादा नहीं कहूँगी, क्योंकि हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब पूरी बात बतावेंगे। लेकिन इतना आप से बता दूँ कि मिसेज मित्रा जो निहायत ग्रानैस्ट हैं उन को हम ने वापस बुलाया। बस उन को वापस लाने के हम गुनहगार हैं।

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (Calcutta South-East): I know something about this. If you will allow me two or three minutes, Sir, I shall finish.

An Hon. Member: Can't help.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I have personal knowledge.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Have you given your name to speak?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: The previous speaker did not.

Shrimati Uma Nehru: I did.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has finished. I request Dr. S. P. Mookerjee to speak.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I have not risen at Mr. Feroze Gandhi's order, but on the Chairman's order.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: I only questioned your right to speak.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I know something about the facts of the case—there need be no heat or passion about it—because I wrote to the Minister. Some of these ladies came to Delhi in March, and about 12 to 15 of them saw me. Of course, I can only say what their version was. I am not saying anything as regards what happened from the other side. The Minister was not here. So, I telephoned to the Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Chandra. He was good enough to receive them.

Now, very briefly put, their grievance

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

ance is fairly old. Of course, there is no question of Bengali or non-Bengali at all here. Here, in fact, all the people who are in charge of the institution—most of them—are Bengalis. So, let there be no allegation made here that in this institution anything was done by non-Bengalis against Bengalis. That will be most unfortunate. That is not the allegation. These ladies had serious complaints against the people who were in charge of that institution, about their management, about some misappropriation—they did not get their food, they were not properly looked after, and so on. Then this Punjabi came, as Mrs. Nehru said, in a temporary capacity. Some of them were instigated by the local staff to organise some sort of strike against this Punjabi on provincial grounds, and they did it. They did it for a while. And then, this Punjabi lady explained to them that no provincial question should be allowed to be brought in and she should be trusted and given a chance. They said they were fully satisfied with the management now and they were much better looked after than by Mrs. Mitra. I also know Mrs. Mitra. She had a very good record. There was nothing against her. She comes from East Bengal, and she has a very good record. So, I requested the Minister to see that the matter was looked into. All sorts of allegations were made. Some may be based on facts. Some may be unfounded. But the inmates were scared and extremely nervous. The Minister rightly pointed out to me that this institution is in the hands of the U.P. Government, and he said it would be very awkward for him to interfere. Still he said, after he got my letter, that he was having the matter looked into.

What I suggest is that there should be no politics in this. No one wants that politics should be brought into it. The interests of these refugees should be properly looked after, and I do not want anything should be done which should give the impression in any part of Bengal that our unfortunate brothers and sisters who come outside Bengal are not being properly looked after. But, there should be some enquiry made. May be, Mrs. Nehru, Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani and Mrs. Renu Chakravarty—let these three Members of Parliament go and visit the place, hear both sides, see what has happened and restore normally as soon as possible. Serious allegations have been made and they should not be hushed up.

श्री रूप नारायण (जिला मिर्जापुर व जिला बनारस—पश्चिम—रक्षित-अनुसूचित जातियाँ) : चैयरमैन साहब यहां पर जो लोग सदस्य बोले हैं, उन्होंने वहां जा कर नहीं देखा है। लेकिन जब मैं ने चुनार के झगड़े की खबर पाई तो मैं वहां गया और मैं ने वहां दो तीन दिन रह कर सारी परिस्थितियों की जांच की। वहां सारा झगड़ा वाकई मैं प्रिंसिपल के ट्रांसफर को लेकर हुआ था। मिस कलसी के आने से पहले वहां की लड़कियों की हालत अच्छी थी। मिसेज मित्रा वहां पर थीं तो कोई शिकायत नहीं थी मिसेज मित्रा जब वहां से छुट्टी गईं और वापस आने वाली थीं तो यह झगड़ा हुआ। मिस कलसी वहां नहीं रखी गयी थीं तो कभी कोई शिकायत किसी लड़की ने नहीं की थी कि खाना अच्छा नहीं मिलता, कपड़ा अच्छा नहीं मिलता। यह कभी सुनाई नहीं दिया। जब मिसेज मित्रा बंगाल जाने लगीं तो लड़कियों ने उन्हें वापस बुलाने को लिखा। इस बीच जब मिस कलसी आईं तो स्टाफ से उनकी नहीं बनी। इस का नतीजा यह हुआ कि मिस कलसी ने लड़कियों को उभारना शुरू किया। मिस कलसी ने लड़कियों को मिला कर काम बनाना चाहा और मिलाने के लिये लड़कियों को सिनेमा तक दिखाया गया। मिस कलसी ने खुद सिनेमा दिखाने के लिये उन को बाहर जाने के लिये भलाऊ किया है। कुछ उन के साथ में काम्युनिस्ट लोग हैं। मिस कलसी ने लड़कियों को बताया कि तुम को २५ रुपये मिलते थे, उस में से ५ रुपये मिसेज मित्रा ले लिया करती थीं और तुम को नहीं देती थीं। इस तरह से वहां एक ऐजीटेशन लड़कियों में पैदा किया गया। यह ऐजीटेशन यहां तक बढ़ा कि जब मिसेज मित्रा का तार आता है कि मैं फिर चुनार आती हूँ तो वहां का वातावरण क्षुब्ध हो गया। जब मिसेज मित्रा किले

के अन्दर आना चाहती हैं तो उम समय लड़कियां करीब २५० लड़कियां आ कर गेट पर एकदम ऐसी सट कर खड़ी हो जाती हैं कि कोई भी आदमी उस फाटक से पास नहीं कर सकता। हालत यहां तक पहुंची कि चौबीसों घंटे लड़कियों का वहां पहरा हो गया और उन्होंने वहां पर अपना ही पूरा इन्तजाम कर लिया। जो कुछ भी था सब का इन्तजाम उन लड़कियों ने अपने हाथ में कर लिया। वहां पर पूरा कंट्रोल उन का हो गया।

तब अधिकारियों में एक सनसनी फैली कि क्या किया जाय। लड़कियों का मामला था। कोई उन को छू नहीं सकता था, कोई उन के साथ कुछ कर नहीं सकता था सिवाय समझाने बुझाने के। समझाने बुझाने के लिये कई आदमी गये, कांग्रेस के लोग भी गये। लेकिन किसी तरह से लड़कियों ने एक बात नहीं मुनी। जब लड़कियां किसी तरह से राजी नहीं हुई तो यह तय हुआ कि "अच्छा तुम जहां जाना चाहती हो, वहां चली जावो, हम इन्तजाम कर देते हैं। तुम जहां जाना चाहो जाओ, हम तुम का जबरदस्ती नहीं रख सकते हैं और न रखना चाहते हैं।" लड़कियों के नाम लिख लिये गये कि वे कहां कहां जाना चाहती हैं। इसके बाद उन को जाने के लिये अलाऊ किया गया। लेकिन उन लोगों के बाहर जाने पर वहां पर काम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के लोग इकट्ठे हो गये और उन्होंने उन को एक्सप्लाइट करना चाहा। उनका वहां प्रोपेगैंडा शुरू हो गया और लड़कियों ने कहीं भी जाने से इन्कार कर दिया। हालत यह हो गयी कि चुनार स्टेशन के पास किले के बाहर लड़कियों ने धरना देना प्रारम्भ कर दिया। और यह जो कहा जाता था कि उनको खाना नहीं दिया गया—अभी काम्युनिस्ट सदस्य ने कहा है—यह बात नहीं है। असल में वह जगह कैम्प से दो मील की दूरी पर है, इसलिये खाना कैम्प से नहीं

हो सकता था लेकिन अधिकारियों ने पब्लिक से कह कर उनके खाने का इन्तजाम कराया और उनको खाना दिया गया, इसलिये यह कहना कि खाना नहीं दिया गया, गलत है। आपने यह भी कहा कि उनको जबर्दस्ती बाहर कर दिया गया और फोर्स से बाहर कर दिया गया, तो यह भी चीज ठीक नहीं है बल्कि यह उनकी इच्छा पर उनको वापिस भेजा गया। जब वे किसी तरह नहीं मांतीं, तब उनमें से जो रिम लीडर थीं और कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के लीडर के हाथ में काम कर रही थीं, उनको मिर्जापुर डिस्ट्रिक्ट जेल में थोड़े समय के लिये भेज दिया गया और उनके जाते ही सब मामला शान्त हो गया और.....

Mr. Chairman: It is more than 7-20 p. m. now. The hon. Minister had to start at 7-20 p. m. Shri A. P. Jain.

Shri Tyagi: When a girl becomes a communist, she does not listen to anybody.

Shri A. P. Jain: I would like to point out that the Home is being run by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, and its administration is under the direct control of the State Government. Moreover, the questions raised relate to the maintenance of law and order in the State, and therefore the subject is more properly a matter for discussion for the State Assembly.

However, as the questions raised concern displaced persons, I would like to make a brief statement of the facts. Three points have been raised by Mr. Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri, and they are as follows:

1. That on the 19th March 1950, or thereabouts, some 200 or 250 inmates of Chunar Home were driven out of the camp forcibly by the Camp Authorities with the help of the Armed Police:

2. That these persons had to live under open sky for five days without food, except what was supplied by public charity; and

3. That these persons were forcibly taken back to Chunar Home, beaten mercilessly and surrounded by police, preventing all communications from outside.

The reported facts, as received from the Uttar Pradesh Government are as follows. Shrimati Nalini Mitra, who

[Shri A. P. Jain]

had been the principal of the Home since its inception had to proceed to West Bengal in November 1952, after serving for 1½ years, as she had been offered an appointment in the Provincial Educational Service of West Bengal. In her place Kumari Kalsi, Vice-Principal of Dehra Dun Home was appointed temporarily. As Shrimati Mitra had during her tenure of office managed the Home satisfactorily, the Government of West Bengal was requested to spare her services for the Home on deputation for her re-appointment as principal. Here, I may state that I had personally visited the Chunar Home in the month of November 1952.

Not one single complaint was made against Mrs. Mitra. On the other hand, the entire staff, the inmates, as also the officers of the U.P. Government made to me a unanimous request that I must request the Chief Minister, West Bengal, to lend us the services of Mrs. Mitra. I wrote to the Chief Minister, West Bengal, and he was good enough to lend back the services of Mrs. Mitra. Therefore, I have no reason to think that Mrs. Mitra is anything except a very desirable type of Principal.

On the appointment of Kumari Kalsi, there was an agitation for her removal, presumably at the instance of the Bengali staff. Thereupon, Kumari Kalsi tried to win the support of a section of the staff and of the inmates of the Home by giving various concessions and facilities, some of a very undesirable type which it is not necessary to mention. This gave rise to the formation of two groups in the Home—one supporting Kumari Kalsi and the other opposed to her. Now, this opposite group had nothing to do with Mrs. Mitra, because at that time she was in Bengal. On the day previous to the arrival of Shrimati Nalini Mitra, the group favouring Kumari Kalsi was greatly agitated and set afloat a rumour that certain members of the staff were conspiring to poison Kumari Kalsi. The House will remember that until then Mrs. Mitra had not returned to the Chunar Home. A lady doctor and the Assistant Surgeon of Chunar were called, but they found that there were no symptoms of poisoning.

Mrs. Mitra arrived the next day morning, that is, on the 4th March 1953. But her entry to the Home was forcibly resisted by some inmates, mostly those who were favouring Kumari Kalsi. Now, Sir, a change came over and the group which was opposing Kumari Kalsi began to favour the return of Mrs. Mitra.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: High politics!

Shri A. P. Jain: In view of the persistent agitation and acts of violence, it was not found possible for Shrimati Mitra to enter the Home for the next fortnight. These women resisted, and resisted strenuously, the entry of Mrs. Mitra back into the Home for 15 days. During this interval assurances were given that their legitimate grievances would be looked into, and a section of the inmates, and perhaps of the staff, persisted in the demand that Kumari Kalsi should be retained as Principal and that 6 members of the staff who opposed Kumari Kalsi should be removed. They made certain allegations about misappropriation and other things. On the 13th March 1953, Kumari Kalsi left Chunar to join the post in Dehra Dun. On that occasion, a rumour was set afloat that Kumari Kalsi had been murdered and thrown into the Ganga, and 14 girls left the Home to trace the whereabouts of Kumari Kalsi. (*Interruption*). Two communications were handed over to me—one by Dr. Mookerjee and another by Prof. Saha—in which both the allegations about poisoning and about the murder of Kumari Kalsi had been made. But Miss Kalsi is hale and hearty, alive and kicking, in Dehra Dun.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Kicking whom? Not the Minister?

Shri A. P. Jain: Not the Minister, but those who supported false allegations.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Kicking them from Dehra Dun?

Shri A. P. Jain: Yes, they will be kicked.

Women social workers were called from Lucknow and Allahabad to help in pacification. The services of a lady doctor and an officer of the Government of West Bengal were also obtained for the purpose. These ladies, as also the Regional Director, the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police made strenuous efforts to pacify the agitators. The inmates were assured that inquiries into the grievances would start immediately and that suitable action would be taken against those found at fault. They were further informed that the trainees when they had completed their course of training could be sent to Allahabad and other production centres, and if any of them did not wish to stay in the Home or to go to the production centres in the State, the U.P. Government would be prepared to consider repatriating them.

to West Bengal in consultation with that Government. In spite of those assurances, these persons remained adamant and in fact, became rowdy and violent and locked up some of the teaching staff. The leaders amongst them instigated the inmates to leave the Home. On the 18th March 1953, 32 women with their children left the Home. Sometime later some more women and children escaped by opening the bolts of the gates and thus altogether 154 inmates of the Home left and squatted in the passenger shed in front of the Chunar railway station.

On the 19th March 1953, Shrinati Mitra was taken inside the Fort. All efforts by the District Magistrate and the social workers to persuade women and children in the passenger shed to return to the Home proved fruitless and the situation at the railway station became threatening. In view of the prevailing situation, six ring leaders were arrested on the 20th March 1953 by constables after overcoming resistance. The agitators were again made the offer of going back to the Home or to the Production Centre or of being repatriated to West Bengal, but they refused to leave the shed. As it was undesirable to permit the agitators to squat in the shed any longer, six more ring leaders were arrested and the rest were brought back to the Home on that date.

Some of the inmates who were brought back to the Home assaulted the Principal, the Assistant Inspector of Training and some members of the staff. The doors and furnitures of the Home were also damaged. A contingent of Armed Police was therefore requisitioned on the 23rd March 1953 to maintain law and order and to assist in the arrest of the other ring leaders. 28 women were arrested on the 23rd March 1953. This time no resistance was offered and no force was used. All the 40 women who were arrested together with their 21 children were repatriated to West Bengal. From the facts stated above, it will be seen that the statement that 200 to 250 inmates of the Chunar Home were driven forcibly out by the home authorities with the help of the police is not correct. As a matter of fact, about 150 inmates of the Home left of their own accord. These inmates squatted on the passenger shed outside the Chunar station and created a problem of law and order for the local authorities. No arrangements for the supply of food to these persons could be made under these circumstances. There has been no beating or manhandling of the women inmates inside the Home, but on the 20th March 1953 some force had to be used to arrest six ring leaders

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who had offered resistance. The force used was the minimum required. The situation is now fully under control and normalcy has been restored. The State Government have at different stages taken the assistance of the lady workers and they are considering the question of appointing an advisory committee of non-officials. They are also looking into other allegations and grievances.

I might state that questions of this type raise a very delicate situation.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: May I know who actually made these enquiries, on the basis of which the hon. Minister is reading out the report?

Shri A. P. Jain: The Regional Director of Exchange and Resettlement, U.P., has personally visited the place. He is a senior I.A.S. Officer with about twenty-five years standing and the information is based on his report.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): All these are subsequent to the event.

Shri A. P. Jain: The U.P. Government have at all stages co-operated with this Ministry in finding accommodation for not only women and children but for rehabilitating about a thousand families from West Bengal. All that has happened here and the type of allegations that have been levelled against the U.P. Government give a sense of grievance to that State which has been, I have no doubt, doing its best. I would like to read a few sentences from a telegram which I have received from the Chief Minister of U.P. which will give an idea to the House that questions of this kind raise difficulties in the way of finding accommodation for the Bengal refugees. This is what the Chief Minister has telegraphed:

"Have been throughout anxious to help displaced persons and to give every possible assistance to Central Government in the settlement of refugees. State Government have been put to considerable loss and also a certain amount of strain and we did not allow ourselves to be deflected from the path of service by any self-regarding considerations. Chunargarh incident however has brought vividly home to us the hazard of the course adopted by us. In view of the latest experience.....we would beg the Ministry to leave us alone."

Later on, he says:

"Shall feel grateful if Central Government were to take over all settlements directly under their own control and supervision."

[Shri A. P. Jain]

Rehabilitation is a difficult and delicate task. I have to seek the co-operation of State Governments who are primarily responsible for running the homes and if a difficult situation in regard to law and order arises they have to deal with it. Any unfair criticism here is bound to cause difficulties and while I do not mind providing necessary information to the House, yet, I would request hon. Members to be circumspect in their criticism.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Our criticism is not against the U.P. Government. Has anyone in the House criticised the U.P. Government? So far as I know even outsiders have not.

Shri A. E. Jain: What else is it?

Shri K. K. Basu: Is the United Provinces Government above criticism?

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATES.

Secretary: I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of the Council of States:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of

Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to enclose a copy each of the following Bills which have been passed by the Council of States at its sitting held on the 9th April, 1953:

1. The Scheduled Areas (Assimilation of Laws) Bill, 1953.
2. The Travancore-Cochin High Court (Amendment) Bill, 1953."

SCHEDULED AREAS (ASSIMILATION OF LAWS) BILL AND TRAVANCORE-COCHIN HIGH COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Secretary: I beg to lay the following two Bills, as passed by the Council of States, on the Table of the House:

1. The Scheduled Areas (Assimilation of Laws) Bill, 1953.
2. The Travancore-Cochin High Court (Amendment) Bill, 1953.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock on Tuesday, the 14th April, 1953.