

Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, a copy of Notification No. GSR 374 dated the 2nd April, 1960 making certain further amendment to the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2086/60.]

selves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board for the term commencing from the 31st May, 1960, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that Shri Chowkhamoon Gohain, a nominated member of Lok Sabha to represent Part B Tribal Areas of Assam, has resigned his seat in Lok Sabha with effect from the 15th April, 1960.

Shri Hem Barua: Has he given any reason for that?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think he has given any reason.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE CENTRAL SILK BOARD

Shri Manubhal Shah: I beg to move.

"That in pursuance of clause (c) of sub-section (3) of Section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board for the term commencing from the 31st May, 1960, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (c) of sub-section (3) of Section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among them-

12-06 hrs.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Rehabilitation. Shri C. K. Bhattacharya will continue his speech.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya (West Dinajpur): **Mr. Speaker,** yesterday while I was speaking on this subject the hon. Minister got unnecessarily agitated. I had made no accusation against him. In fact, what I wanted was that he should reply and clear the public mind of the accusations that have been made in the newspapers against him. I wanted to create or give him an opportunity to reply on the forum of the House itself. That was my intention. This accusation or allegation, whatever it might be, to which I drew his attention was rather a serious one. The paper in which it appeared could not be dismissed as a rag, as it was an influential paper, and the hon. Minister knows that the paper is owned and conducted by a person who is himself a Minister in the Congress Cabinet of West Bengal, and more so, because he was himself the Minister of State for Rehabilitation. Therefore, when such a paper publishes an accusation against a Central Minister of Rehabilitation, that ought to be taken very seriously and that ought to be countered at once and as fully as possible. If it had been countered before, it would not have been my unfortunate lot to bring it

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

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before the House. But since it has remained unchallenged, I wanted to place it before the House and before the Minister, who can reply to it and just clear it off, saying that there is no basis for it, of course, without being agitated. I am now reading what appeared in the papers on the 4th of April, which says.

Mr. Speaker: Why should be read it now? The hon. Minister will look into it if there is anything substantial in it.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: I think you. I only wanted to draw his attention to the news which has appeared in the press.

Mr. Speaker: If it is a substantial matter, by all means let him refer to it.

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): I have replied to it yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: What are the suggestions that he wants to make? What are his views?

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: The paper is dated 4th April. I will only put the exact English translation of what appeared in the paper itself, because the original was in Bengali. I am putting the exact translation, which says:

"Khanna had not the least hesitation to reaction the confidential proceedings minutes of an official discussion to the hands of the Opposition. There is absolutely no doubt that the confidential minutes which were disclosed before the Assembly by Sidhartha Ray were manoeuvred into his hands by Khanna himself."

You will kindly note, Sir, that the charge is direct, straight, clear and categorical. Therefore.....

Mr. Speaker: How does it help one way or the other the poor refugees? Let the charge against the hon. Minister that he has handed them over deliberately stand or fall, but so far as the refugees are concerned it does not help them. I am going to allow only 15 minutes to him. He has already taken six or seven minutes. If he has anything to say regarding the condition of the refugees and their amelioration.....

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: I have. But these things are being openly said about the Central Ministers and I submit that this is undermining the confidence of the public in the hon. Ministers and the Government of which they are parts. They should be countered and challenged very effectively and very properly. This is not the first time that it has been stated. It was done previously also and I had an occasion to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister himself. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain was the previous Minister of Rehabilitation. It was stated then that the previous Rehabilitation Minister was going about telling things against the present Rehabilitation Minister. It appeared in print. This is not a good thing that the names of two Central Ministers should continue to be mentioned in this way before the public. This should be openly challenged. I hope the hon. Minister remembers it. If Shri Jain be here, he might also remember that I had approached him over this thing.

The question came up before the West Bengal Assembly and they passed a resolution demanding what could and should be done for the displaced persons in Dandakaranya. I should give a summary of what had been stated in the resolution by the Assembly itself so that it might be made clear as to what they wanted. It said that the Rehabilitation Ministry should not be closed down in 1961 as reported until the arrangements for complete rehabilitation of refugees in Dandakaranya and other places are made more effective; that the West

Bengal Government should be more closely associated with Dandakaranya Development Project; that the departments in Dandakaranya Project dealing with education, health, social services, etc. should have officers who have intimate knowledge of the custom, culture and language of the East Bengal refugees; that adequate funds should be allocated by the Government of India in the Third Five Year Plan for the general development of the State economy with the particular object of the economic integration of displaced persons in the State and impressed the need of early implementation of the above recommendations.

So far as the Dandakaranya Project is concerned, I have something more to say. The first phase of the programme which was approved by the Cabinet should be implemented and should not be allowed to be scuttled. That is my submission. Considering the complaints and various allegations that have been appearing in the press about the irregularities and the internal conflict of the officers themselves and the development authorities, there should be some enquiry by hon. Members of the House to find out what the difficulties were and how they could be checked. An impression is sought to be created that the displaced persons from East Pakistan are not inclined to go to Dandakaranya. That impression should be challenged and I challenge it here.

From the very beginning I have extended my support to this scheme in the House and in the papers with one expectation that the displaced mass of humanity will find in Dandakaranya a congenial atmosphere and a place of settlement where they could grow in their own social environments and according to their own traditions and culture. That contention remains and I believe that the East Pakistan refugees are completely agreeable to go and settle there provided conditions are created which are fit for human

habitation. If there has been any disinclination on their part anywhere it is because reports have come that the expectations with which the others went have not been fulfilled. That might have created some disinclination. But that should not be taken as proof of the fact that there is no eagerness on the part of the East Pakistan refugees to go to Dandakaranya.

In this connection I should refer to a press message issued a few days earlier from the Ministry, I believe, stating that they were ready to send 6,000 displaced persons to Dandakaranya but they could not send them because of the West Bengal Government. I say sir, whoever might have been the source of that message passed to the PTI has not acted on facts. This is an incorrect and a baseless message that has been allowed to go out to the public. It is not that the West Bengal Government is standing in the way of 6,000 displaced persons going to Dandakaranya. The fact is that the arrangements in Dandakaranya are not sufficient to receive 6,000 displaced persons. What to say of 6,000, I say that the arrangements there are not fit to receive even 2,000 displaced persons. The hon. Minister might accept it from me or he might challenge it if he likes. There are no sufficient arrangements.

Some days ago the Chairman of the Dandakaranya Authority himself had stated that only 72 worksite camps were being constructed of these 72 worksite camps only 30 were ready of which 14 are already occupied by the 1,400 displaced persons who are there and only 16 remain. How many persons can be accommodated in 16 worksite camps? Taking 100 persons for one camp only 1,600 persons can be accommodated. I am prepared to extend it to 2,000 persons, but not more than that.

So the situation and the arrangements in Dandakaranya being what they are today, not more than 2,000 displaced persons can be taken there.

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It is completely wrong on the part of anybody who might have been the source of that message to go out to the public and say that the Authority was ready to take 6,000 displaced persons but they could not go because of the West Bengal Government.

Complaints have repeatedly appeared in the press about the large-scale wastage of funds, intolerable condition of the displaced persons sent there, rivalry among officials and even about the hon. Minister himself that he has interfered at times not to regularise the thing but to cover up irregularities. That complaint has appeared in the press and that requires clearing up.

One particular factor that requires mention is that the villages that are being constructed there are not being constructed in a way where displaced persons can find very helpful accommodation because the villages are being constructed at such distances that even if people are sent there, 100 people will be here and 100 people will be at 50 miles distance and they will not find it encouraging to go there. If you construct villages and want these people to go there, you must allow them to live in contiguous areas. The fact should be taken into consideration that these people have once been uprooted from East Bengal, have been living without shelter in West Bengal and are now being sent to another place where they are not acquainted with the surroundings. So they must be allowed to stay on the site and re-construct their life in one contiguous area. Villages should be constructed according to that plan. But I am afraid the information that I have been able to secure goes to show that the villages are not being constructed that way. Upto March, 1961 it was arranged that about 180 villages will be constructed. But upto the present day, I believe, only 5 to 10 villages have been constructed and nothing more and some of them are still in the initial stages.

Then I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this fact that between the three centres, Paralkote, Umarkote and Malkangiri which are at a distance of 150 miles there were intermediate centres at a distance of 50 miles but all these intermediate centres have been closed down. So, people living in these centres will be apart from each other by 150 miles and naturally they cannot have a social life living at such long distances.

There is also the other thing about the jobs which should go to the displaced persons and which are not being given to them. The jobs like drivers or cleaners could be given to displaced persons who will be able to meet the requirements for those jobs. But the complaint is that up till now they are not being accommodated. When they go there, they find themselves in a distressed condition and are allowed to live in that condition till they are offered accommodation in these villages that are being constructed. The reports that have come from these people have created a commotion that the assurances that are given to them in the beginning are not being kept.

There is one thing more. There has been some mention about the report that Shri Dharam Vir has submitted to the Prime Minister. Shri Dharam Vir, the Secretary of the Ministry has himself made certain observations which are very complimentary to the way things are being done there. Would the hon. Minister be kind enough.....

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): Sir, the moment the name of my Secretary is taken and motives are attributed to him, I would rather contradict them and ask the hon. Member to accept my statement in this regard that no report has been submitted by Shri Dharam Vir either to the Prime Minister or to me.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: I am happy that the hon. Minister has contradicted me, but.....

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am only contradicting the statement that appeared, I believe, in one of the Opposition papers.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: So far as the Opposition is concerned, the Opposition is with the Minister this time. A Resolution was brought in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly by two splinter groups of the Opposition, the R.S.P. and the Forward Bloc expressing 'No Confidence' in the Minister and asking for his removal and the Resolution could be defeated only by the Communist Party remaining neutral and allowing the Resolution to go.

Sir, we have known here that no love is lost between the Communist Party members and the Minister. If one were to find an explanation for this suddenly developed love of the Communist Party—I should not say an illegitimate love—for the Minister in order to save him from that Resolution of 'No Confidence' moved by other two Opposition groups, one should say it is not for nothing that the Opposition has this time gone over to the Minister. Whatever that might be, if any report has been submitted by Shri Dharam Vir I request the hon. Minister to place it before the House for our enlightenment and our information.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta-Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I proceed to discuss the demands for grants and the working of the Ministry of Rehabilitation, I would like to offer my apologies to you for not having been present yesterday when the debate started. As you know, there was an eleventh hour change in the programme and there were some unavoidable engagements which kept me away from the House when the discussion started yesterday.

Sir, while discussing rehabilitation naturally we feel that this is a matter where all parties should, if possible, agree and co-operate and co-ordinate their activities. It is because we always bring to bear upon the problems of rehabilitation this national approach that we are sometimes prepared to give the Minister and his colleagues a great deal of rope to hang themselves later if they wish to do that. But I emphasize that this is a matter where all the parties should co-operate and co-ordinate their activities. But the Minister has led his administration in to such a mess that recently he has been almost frantically trying to secure his own political rehabilitation rather than the real rehabilitation of the displaced persons and this is a point of view which we have expressed everywhere, in West Bengal as well as here.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): Was he politically displaced?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I find in the Report circulated to us that the Minister has, what he calls—I quote the words—"the first sensations of near achievement. I am astounded that in the year of grace 1960 only a few weeks after we had that discussion on the Dandakaranaya project in this House, the Minister has these sensations of near achievement". I know, the Minister, perhaps, requires certain sensations to cover up glaring failures. But I say that as far as the work of rehabilitation is concerned, it is not complete, not even in the west. As far as the western zone displaced persons are concerned, we hear a cry of distress from Kingsway Camp, Faridabad, Ulhas Nagar and other places about which I am sure my colleagues in this House will make a reference. They have already spoken—Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has already spoken.

In regard to the Ministry of course, the Democles sword of retrenchment is hanging over the heads of the employees—about 7000—and they are desperately trying to secure alternative employment. This matter as

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brought up before the House and I understand you, Sir, expressed your sympathy for these people and your desire that every effort is made to assimilate them into other departments of Government.

Now, as far as the eastern zone is concerned, there is nothing like a solution of the problems of rehabilitation. When even in regard to the western zone there are problems crying out for solution, when the employees are frantically trying to secure some kind of rehabilitation for themselves, it is rather ironic that the Minister has the first sensation of near achievement.

As far as the eastern zone is concerned, the tragic story which we hear from year to year continues. We heard in this House how in the Mikir Hill area there was firing, how elephants were used to crush down huts and how paddy was destroyed. I know, the Minister might say it was none of his business and it was not within his jurisdiction and all that. But my grouse is exactly there. The Minister's business is to co-ordinate the work of rehabilitation wherever displaced persons are to be found and that is why I say it is not for the Minister or any of his colleagues at the Centre or in the States to come forward and say that there are black sheep in the fold of the refugees and, therefore, they all should be penalised for the sake of a few black sheep. It is not right, proper or moral. Very often our Minister invokes the name of God. It is not moral to refer only to the black sheep in the fold of the refugees and try to justify these punitive expeditions of the sort which took place in the Mikir Hill area. This same lack of sympathy is found in the premature closure of displaced persons' camps in Orissa. Inevitably there was some resistance, and the police repression followed. It is a sorry tale which only a little more efficiency and sympathetic understanding could have prevented. The Minister may consider that to be a flea-bite so to speak when he has

to deal with so many enormous wounds, but I am sure he has to show sympathy and understanding and capability, but I am afraid he has not justified his position and his responsibility.

Then again, lately in Calcutta there were demonstrations by refugee students against the decrease in educational facilities. I quite understand that screening is necessary, I quite realise that avoidable expenditure should be avoided, that wasteful expenditure should be stopped, but this is not the right way of doing things, and the way the Minister has proceeded has caused such a spate of protests. My hon. friend Shri Bhattacharya was referring to certain papers. I have got sheaves of papers. I have got no time to refer to these papers, papers which are published not by the Opposition but Congress-supporting journals which are published not by the thousands, tens of thousands, in West Bengal, and they are always referring to the kind of inefficiency which the Minister is demonstrating particularly during recent months. I would like the Minister to take very specific steps, and as soon as ever that is possible to regularise these squatters' colonies in the eastern region and then to make a very special examination of the condition of the camps.

I would like to make an appeal to you in this connection. The Minister very often would try to foist the blame on opposition elements and say that the opposition people always try to fish in troubled waters, and bring up these matters only to get some political advantage. I would appeal to you to select any ten Members of Parliament excluding the Opposition altogether, and ask them to go and examine the condition which prevails in the camps in West Bengal and Assam and Tripura and those other places.

So, there is a whole belt of these camps from Tahirpur to Gayeshpur

near Kanchrapara which is a fairly big railway station on the Eastern Railway, and in this area there is a huge concentration of displaced persons.

Mr. Speaker: I believe some hon. Members including Ch. Ranbir Singh went there and there were different versions.

Shri Tangamanj (Madurai): Yesterday Shri D. C. Sharma told us what the conditions there were.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may remember that some hon. Members including Ch. Ranbir Singh went round and they have contradicted some statements relating to these affairs. I think it was about the famine conditions and so on.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): That was in connection with the food situation.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: These matters which require a human approach have got to be tackled. If there are difficulties, if there are some preliminary obstacles, political prejudices operating even in regard to these matters, they have to be overcome, and some efforts have got to be made, and they can only be made from a level which is beyond controversy, and that is why if there is a body of Members of Parliament chosen in a manner which is unexceptionable, surely that might conceivably lead to some good results. And I say that no effort should be spared so that this problem can be properly solved.

I was talking about the condition of these camps which really beggar description. Here in this area in Tahirpur, a township which was supposed to have been set up, a few buildings were being constructed. They were generally left half-completed, and it was an area where no attempt was made to integrate, so to speak, the possibilities of economic development with the population which was being newly settled, and the result is that

the whole area has the appearance of a ghost territory, and it has been abandoned.

Then again, we find many instances of test relief being conducted. Sometimes tanks are being excavated, and what happens is even very old people have to work. My hon. friend Shri Prabhat Kar, who is a Member for that area, tells me that he has actually seen an old man of 80 years of age having to go up 50 feet and down with loads of clay in order to get four annas and one seer of wheat or something like that as the reward of his labours. This kind of test relief is not going to produce any rehabilitation. It is going to produce a lot of beggars. It is going to convert a whole chunk of the Bengali population into a race of beggars, and that is exactly what we do not want. I have heard the Minister sometimes telling us...

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: May I enquire how my Ministry is concerned with test relief?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: It is necessary that there is a rational plan so that the money given as loan or in any other form can be utilised for purposes of productive activity. It is necessary that there is a link up of the rehabilitation plans with the work of the community development projects, with the work of the Planning Commission and its subordinate agencies, with the work of the other nation-building departments of Government. If it so happens that the bureaucratic traditions of Delhi are so important that the Minister of Rehabilitation does not know what is being done by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, then I am very sorry about the future of my country. I fear that the future of my country is very dismal when we find the Ministers operating in the way in which they do.

The Minister has often told us, he has shoved it in our faces so to speak; oh, these chaps are going round asking for doles, for loans which they never would repay, they are a lot of

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unsightly beggars. Maybe some of them have been converted into the condition of unsightly beggars, but nobody wants doles. Do not throw this kind of argument into the face of the displaced persons. Arrange, for God's sake—and I do invoke the name of God, even though I may not be a believer in the sense that the Minister,—for gainful employment for the refugees. Whether you like it or not, the displaced persons are our own people, and they are turned into a race of beggars, and they demonstrate sometimes much to the dislike of the Minister, but I can understand it because between hunger and anger the line is very thin. And if they continue in this posture, the condition of our country might very well degenerate into a position which all will have to regret.

In West Bengal, the rehabilitation effort included the appointment of a committee for industrial development with Shri G. D. Birla, Padma Vibhushan, as the Chairman. As far as I know, the results are nil. As far as I know, in the Chakda area, very near the constituency of my hon. friend Shri Prabhat Kar, there was a project for setting up some textile mills, but nothing has come about. As far as I know, some moneys were given by the Minister to certain textile magnates on the condition that they were going to set up new installations where displaced persons would get a lot of employment, but as far as I know, not very much, tangibly speaking has resulted from that kind of effort.

Then again, only the other day all Members of Parliament were supplied with beautifully printed pictures of tenements, printed on art paper, built for the refugees. They look very good, but I have seen some of these tenements in the Beliaghata area very near my own constituency in Calcutta, and I know that for publicity purposes the pictures of these tenements can serve very well,

but the refugees are not getting much advantage out of it because not being in a position of economic rehabilitation, they cannot always go into those tenements. They cannot even pay the subsidised rates of rent, and on a number of occasions non-refugees have been permitted to go into those tenements, because the refugees are not in a position to occupy the space in those tenements, space they cannot really pay for.

These problems are there, but, all these problems are perhaps overshadowed in the mind of everybody by the problems which emanated from the mistaken activities of the Minister and his colleagues in relation to the Dandakaranya project. In regard to the Dandakaranya project we had a discussion some time ago, and I do not wish to go into much detail over it, but I do hope that the Minister tries to keep to his promises. The Minister had promised some time earlier in this House, he had said, I am quoting his words:

"I undertake to provide every single family that I take to Dandakaranya with shelter, medical and educational facilities, work and ultimate rehabilitation."

This is a promise which the Minister solemnly made in this House, and I hold him to it. He has made also a promise that he is going to take more people to Dandakaranya as quick as he can. I do not wish that a few months later, the Minister comes to this House and says, 'oh, you people are very ignorant about the geographical, climatic, conditions of that part of India, you do not know that the monsoon there is so heavy and continuous for several months in the year, and whatever I said about the monthly exodus that I could manage has been found to be impossible.' I do not wish him to come to this House and tell that sort of thing; if he continues to be a Minister, I want him to behave differently, and come and tell this House information very diff-

erent from the kind of very dismal information which I am anticipating.

In regard to this Dandakaranya, much has been said already, and reference has been made in regard to the large-scale waste of funds and the sort of ignorable proceedings which went on when one officer was found wanting; then, more were found wanting; the Ministers themselves were found wanting; and some sort of a makeshift ultimately was brought about, with what results in the future, I do not know. But there are certain things which were said on the last occasion, when the Dandakaranya project was being discussed, which require to be repeated.

There was the demand last time for a definite parliamentary inquiry into the conditions in Dandakaranya. We conceded at that time that the Estimates Committee were going into the matter, and perhaps we could wait for a while. I do not quite know what the position is, and when the Estimates Committee's findings in regard to the Dandakaranya project would be available to us, and in the meantime, things are going from bad to worse, from the reports that we receive, and the demand for a parliamentary examination of the conditions in Dandakaranya remains.

I say this because so many things happened such as that the o'd officer in charge of the Dandakaranya project, Mr. Fletcher, was given a charge-sheet by the Secretary of the Ministry, and the officer concerned gave a detailed reply. Now, we have not seen those documents at all. Then, the Secretary made an investigation, we are told, he has submitted a report. Now, we have no idea as to what the Secretary said. The Minister might consider that we are rather sub-normal people with intelligences which do not need to be taken into account. But in any case, over a matter of such importance, reports made by responsible officers, and a controversy which went on, which might be of very great importance, with such things said on either side, nobody knows

who is so absolutely correct; and, therefore, it is very necessary that certain documents have got to be here before us, but those documents have not been given.

We have been given no opportunity of finding out the real facts about the Dandakaranya project. Lately, on the 6th of April, this year, that is, only the other day, there was a letter in *The Statesman*, a very long and closely documented letter, from a gentleman called Mr. Sushil Kumar Banerjee, who does not belong to the Opposition, but who is well known as a Congressman with Sarvodaya ideas, who at one time collaborated with Gandhiji in some very good work during the communal disturbances. He has made some very specific complaints which I think ought to be answered by the Minister.

One matter which he has brought into prominence is also considered to be very serious by all of us, and that is that quite some time ago, a phased programme was drawn up, and the end of 1960 was set as the target date for the completion of the first phase. I want the Minister to be found down to this; the first phase of the programme, the implementation of the work for the completion of the first phase of the programme should be our target; we may not reach it absolutely but something like that has got to be a target which we shall achieve by the end of 1960. But up to now, on the figures given by this correspondent, about 10,000 acres have been reclaimed against a target of 70,000 acres.

Then, as it was pointed out earlier, schemes to rehabilitate displaced persons in Dandakaranya in contiguous stretches, as far as possible, so that you can take the displaced persons and their families together and make them live as near each other as possible—the idea of having them in contiguous areas has completely gone out of the picture, and new areas in the jungle are being developed, rather too far away from other areas where some sort of preliminary development work had proceeded. There might be

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some kind of explanation for it, but generally speaking, the principle should be observed that as far as possible, contiguity should be a matter which the Ministry must give greater importance to. And these refugees are being sent to an area which admittedly is a difficult area, in absolutely unfamiliar terrain; not everybody has the spirit of adventure. They go with their families, their women folk, their children, and you cannot expect them to be happy and do work in the way that they should work, if they find conditions as excruciating as everybody reports that they are; and the non-supply of drinking water, the absence of irrigation facilities, to which reference was made during the last discussion on the Dandakaranya project were not really answered satisfactorily by the Minister, and I feel that the Minister should take very special steps to make sure that at least the first phase of the programme which was set as the target by the end of 1960 is attempted to be achieved. If we cannot fulfil the target completely, we should fulfil it at least as near the final figure as it is possible for us to do

In regard to Dandakaranya, I would say a great deal more, but I fear I would not have time. But in regard to the position in West Bengal now and the reactions of the people of West Bengal to the Minister's activities they are a matter of some considerable importance. The proceedings of the West Bengal Assembly recently are also of very great interest.

As I said, earlier, one of the Minister's trump-cards used to be: the Opposition is always trying to get political advantage out of these bickerings,—and, therefore, we specialise in bickerings. But, now, you find in West Bengal, unanimous resolutions are being passed. And it was because of the desirability of having a unanimous resolution of the West Bengal Assembly, which would make the Minister sit up, it was because of that,

and not for any soft corner that we have for the Minister's failings—personally, I may have a soft corner for him, but, for his failings, I have no soft corner at all; it is not because we have a soft corner but only because we wanted a unanimous resolution in the West Bengal Assembly that we agreed not to press for the amendment which asked for the dismissal of the Minister of Rehabilitation. So, we do not hide our feelings. I may be a very cantankerous person, but I do not mind expressing my feelings unequivocally; and on the last occasion, here, I have said that the Minister has no constitutional business to remain where he is, which in plain English is interpreted to mean that the Minister should go, that the Minister should not be where he is. We have never made a secret of his intention of ours. But in West Bengal we discovered that the whole of the State is now up against the Minister of Rehabilitation. Last time, the Minister tried to turn the tables on us, and he said, 'five years ago, you welcomed me, and now, you do not, what have I done?' We had welcomed him five years ago, not because he was a Minister of Government, because we know that tribe too well, but we welcomed him as a Minister of Rehabilitation because he was himself a displaced person, and we expected that when he was in charge of the administration, a certain quality of sympathy would be introduced into the administration, and we waited and waited and waited. Everybody in West Bengal was willing to give Shri Mehr Chand Khanna as much opportunity as possible to serve the country, and they discovered, especially over this business, that he was pursuing a policy which led nowhere and he was trying also in a very subtle manner to introduce chauvinistic elements into our political thinking. I hope I am a good Bengali, but I am a better Indian, and surely, I would say that it is not because of chauvinistic reasons that we are attacking him as a Minister. The Minister is being attacked in the West Bengal papers. The

Minister is being attacked by his own party members in the West Bengal Assembly; there is not a soul to say a good word about the Minister's activities. That is not for Bengali provincial reasons. On the contrary, if the Minister could show results, if the Minister could show real understanding, if the Minister could show that he had a human approach to the problem, then, surely, he would have continued to enjoy the popularity which he got when he first went there. But now the position is that everybody there has combined, and combined against the Minister, on account of the failings of his administration. And that is why I say that nobody in West Bengal would be sorry when the Minister goes. The refugees have shed too many tears during the regime of the Minister of Rehabilitation to have any tears left when he goes out of the Government. I say this with a full sense of the words which I am using.

That is why I say that when there is in West Bengal this kind of feeling, when the West Bengal Assembly passed a unanimous resolution, when the Minister had to announce that leaders of the Government in West Bengal along with certain other members of the Assembly should specially go to Dandakaranya and find out what is what, then it is time for the Minister to make a very humble approach to his own conscience, to ask those questions which he ought to have been asking throughout his tenure as Minister of Rehabilitation. If he does ask those questions even now, I am sure he can make amends. But I have very little hopes, because I have found him at work for some time. That is why I say that I feel rather strongly, my State feels strongly, my people feel strongly, and the whole of India would feel very strongly, at the failure of the rehabilitation programme as far as the eastern zone is concerned. That is why I am astonished when he says that he is getting the sensation of the near fulfilment of the targets. If this is the kind

of terms in which he thinks, he does not deserve to continue a day in the position that he occupies at the present moment.

I wish, therefore, that this House will consider these matters very carefully. I know our position so far as votes in this House are concerned. I know it very well. That is why I make an appeal even at this very late stage to his conscience so that he can ask questions of himself and then decide what he ought to do. I repeat against that as far as Dandakaranya is concerned a parliamentary examination of what has happened there is still a very imperative necessity. Surely if Members in this House are contacted informally and in their human capacity, they will all agree it has to be done at once so that this project does not turn out to be the failure it threatens to be.

Mr. Speaker: I think the Estimates Committee went there and made a report.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): Mr. Speaker, some of the difficulties that surround the problem of the rehabilitation of refugees from East Bengal are well known to this House.

Mr. Speaker: Out of a total of 4 hours allotted for these Demands, when we started today, 55 minutes had already been spent and 3 hours 5 minutes remained. We started at 12:25.

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): Would it be possible to extend the time?

Mr. Speaker: How can I go on extending the time? How long does the hon. Minister propose to talk?

Shri Mehr Chand Bhatnagar: About one hour.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Please extend the time. It is a very important subject we are discussing.

Some Hon. Members: More time should be allowed.

Mr. Speaker: If hon. Members are willing to sit till 7 P.M., we can have one hour more.

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Then I will call the Minister at 3 O'clock so that these Demands will be disposed by 4 O'clock.

Hon. Members will be brief, taking not more than 15 minutes.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Please allow a little more grace.

Mr. Speaker: How can I give more than 15 minutes?

Shrimati Renuka Ray: The House is somewhat better aware of some of the problems of rehabilitation in the eastern zone such as the fact that out of the 45 lakh refugees, 35 lakhs are in one small State and that there is no such thing as an evacuee pool or evacuee property, and loans cannot be offset against claims. But not so well known perhaps are some other features, some of the disastrous policies that have been followed due which the rehabilitation problem in the eastern zone is still completely unsolved.

At the very outset, though it was recognised in West Bengal, it was not recognised elsewhere that this was a problem that was anything but a temporary phase. In the report of the Ministry, we got the complete figures amounts spent on relief and rehabilitation. These also include the figures of infructuous expenditure on hutments built on the border thinking that the refugees will go back, money spent on persons who were induced to go back and who ultimately came back and others followed them. There is inclusion in these figures of infructuous expenditure on military hutments. When I went there in 1952, I found that lakhs of rupees had been spent on repair of military hutments year by year. This went into crores later. In spite of repeated en-

deavour, I was not successful in convincing the Ministry of Rehabilitation that it would be better to put up something more permanent, which would be an asset to the Central Government and which would help better the refugees also. This was the way in which infructuous expenditure had gone on from the very beginning.

I want this House to remember that "he who pays the piper calls the tune. This saying is most true of this Ministry, it is unlike any other; Ministry deals with a state subject which, is a State subject and the finances are divided. But this is a Central responsibility. The finance is all of the Centre and whatever has happened when blame is apportioned, it should be remember that the State can always be over-ridden and the State cannot have the last say. Even where agreements—so-called agreements—are reached, it is the State Government that is very often overborne. In later year, the interference became greater and greater.

I am one of those responsible for wanting a strengthening of the branch secretariat of the Ministry in West Bengal. In doing so, I thought that the delays that took place in getting grants and loans would, in that case, be obviated, that we would be able to go faster with the work of rehabilitation. But no, that was not the result. The result was greater interference and delay in sanctions schemes. And the most disastrous result of all is the policy that has been followed of differentiation between the camp refugee and the non-camp refugee. Out of the total number of refugees who have come into the State of West Bengal, about 7½ lakhs have gone to camps from the beginning till now at some time or other. Yet it seems incredible that it is on the camp refugees that the focus of attention is there. Why is that so? It is a strange thing that a man who came over but with some little money took rented accommodation for a monthly or two hoping that the assurance of rehabili-

tation would be kept was given the last priority of all in respect of getting any rehabilitation help. Secondly, those who stayed with friends and relations and tried to find some kind of accommodation for themselves were also not to be dealt with early. The man who squatted on other people's land, who did not keep the law, was given some better position. Best of all, the first priority went to the man who went to the camp. In spite of repeated endeavour on the part of the State Government—I have personal experience of this—to convince the Centre that this was a very short-sighted policy, we were not successful. The result was that those who came in later years all went to camps, as is evidenced by the figures. Refugees who had come in 1949, 1950 and 1951 all awaited rehabilitation, while others came and even those others for whom the Ministry of Rehabilitation had taken the full responsibility after June, 1954 for rehabilitation in other States, were to be given priority over those refugees who had come in earlier years. Naturally, all refugees who came in later years displayed no initiative and went to the camps. This is another bit of infructuous expenditure which was due to the policy that was followed.

Then there is the problem of the non-camp refugees which has so inadequately been tackled in West Bengal. In this House on an earlier occasion, perhaps not pertinently, enough I pointed out that the report of the Survey Committee which conducted a survey in 1955—here I am speaking of matters of which I have personal experience—had borne out what the State Government had said, namely that 19·17 lakh refugees had by that time received rehabilitation benefits of some kind or another. But they were partially rehabilitated. Certain points were made about full rehabilitation. I would like to read something interesting from the report of that statistical survey itself.

13 hrs.

"The above calculations" that is after they calculate the position, they state, "applies to the migrant population as a whole, consisting of 5,14,000 families. Applying this ratio to 3,95,000 families that were being given rehabilitation benefits, the number of employments that must be created for raising the income of the refugee families to the all-India standard will be approximately Rs. 1,90,000. According to the estimates published by the Planning Commission, it would appear that Rs. 5,000 will be necessary for granting one industrial employment on an average. As it would be too expensive the report recommended labour intensive schemes. It went on to say that it could, perhaps, be cut down to Rs. 3,000 per person. But it comes to Rs. 57 crores. It comes to Rs. 57 crores only on this one point and there were many who received no rehabilitation at all. This is the statistical survey of 1955, but as the problem has not been substantially dealt with, it still holds good."

I do not remember the exact figure, but, I think, it is something like Rs. 80 crores, which was suggested as the amount necessary to deal with the remaining non-camp refugees. But, nothing was done. And, I have to bring this on the floor of the House because of this year's report of the Ministry. It says that the residual problem of non-camp refugees in each State had remained indefinite and the ceiling presumably being the total of displaced persons. Why should it be presumably? Naturally, it must be more or less the total of the displaced population. But it forgets the fact that in earlier year it was placed before the Central Government. If it was not totally placed, it was not totally placed because the State Government was not asked not to give a final date for applications because it might be an overwhelming number. And, this was borne out by facts of the past. Then, in the report it is said—it is rather strange—that the

"Brief details of the assessment made by these two States and ac-

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cepted by the Ministry are indicated below:—

After that, they say,

“then residual problem in respect of about 54,000 families in West Bengal and Tripura has already been assessed, the estimated financial requirement for assistance to them being Rs. 6.47 crores.”

“The schemes for the remaining families would be considered during the next financial year, by the end of which it is hoped that the problem will, by and large, be resolved.”

Sir, posterity will call us to attention if we do not bring this before the House because this House is not aware that the non-camp refugees' problem has not been solved properly. How can anyone bring this? I do not plead for the retention of this Ministry or any other; and I do particularly plead that the Branch Secretariat of this Ministry should be closed forthwith. There is no reason for its being kept on. But I do say that the problem of the non-camp refugees cannot be dealt with in this manner.

It is easy to take kudos in this manner. But the problem remains and destitution faces people. You have to deal with the T.B. cases against non-camp refugees. When they came across, most of them were incipient cases. I say that they have not been properly dealt with. Had they been dealt with properly they would have brought down the incidence of T.B. As far as I can gather the State Government has asked for funds and this too is being reduced as the hon. Minister has outlined.

Sir I am not one of those who wish to stand in the way of the hon. Minister. Let him go from better to better jobs; let him climb the ladder. But let him not do so trampling on the hearts of the East Bengal refugees.

Then, I turn to the camp families about which the responsibility is that of the Ministry of Rehabilitation itself. These are the people who have been there from June 1954 when West Bengal was over-saturated with refugees. It was decided that they will be sent for rehabilitation outside in other States. It was also decided that the arrangements that are made must be made in such a manner that they go in large bloc. Preliminary arrangements were made so that some cultural affinity amongst those could be maintained. But this was not done.

13.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

I do not say that the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation did not search for places. I do not say that conferences of the Eastern region Ministers were not held. But it was not till the end of 1956, that the first idea of Dandakaranya in its present form was evolved. I might say that the Prime Minister thought about it even earlier—a couple of years earlier—that the Bastar district should be explored. But when we from West Bengal asked we were told that that would not be a feasible proposition later on. In any case.....

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

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Please give me a little more time, Sir. I have brought to this House some of the things which I would not have brought but for the report. It has become important that my experience should be placed before the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If I could I would have requested the hon. lady Member to occupy the Chair and distribute the time.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Please be a little more lenient for once. Next time you can be very hard on me

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have my own difficulties.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: In regard to the Dandakaranya scheme, as I said, it was evolved earlier. And, in 1957 this House was informed about it. And, in 1958, the D.D.A. was set up. I have not been there. I have not been there not because I did not want to go; but it would have been another excuse and another peg to hang the failure on people like me who have gone there. So, I had no option. It may be that pictures may be shown of tube wells and drinking water. The most important thing for the refugees to be sent to a place is that drinking water should be there. Thirty-five thousand families were chosen to be sent thereby July, 1959. Then this target was changed to 6,500. Previous speakers have spoken on this and I only want to point out one thing that if there was reluctance on the part of the refugees to go, outside, how is it that some months ago they wanted to go to the Andamans. Some Members of the Opposition might wish to fish in troubled waters. How is it that there is this slowness and this dislike of Dandakaranya? How is it that in West Bengal which was in favour of this scheme now opposition has arisen and the Chief Minister feels that he should go and see what is happening, because of the refugees that have already gone only 131 families in Pharasgaon and some others have been given some land. Title to the land is not there and it is khas land. It is important that because it is khas land that title should be fixed. But that is not done for those who have gone there. More important still, there is no drinking water. The tube-wells that are there—some of them—are not working. That is the information. If one delves into the whole thing I feel like Alice in the Wonderland, becoming "curioser" and "curioser" all the time. How is it that conditions are so changed that they are now liked by the so-called provincial-minded refugees and he had to go so suddenly? How is it that when refugees are taken to Dandakaranya from camps

that they are not taken en bloc? People have come; they have been uprooted and they have been settled in one camp coming from the same area in East Bengal. They are divided up. Who is trying to cause reluctance? Is it the minions of the State Government? Or is it the State Government who now follow the directions of the Centre? Who is it that does it? I think this bluff must be called to a halt, that the refugees do not want to go to Dandakaranya. They do want to go if the place is ready. They will go tomorrow. They went to Andamans and settled there. They will certainly go to Dandakaranya.

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

Shrimati Renuka Ray: I come to the last point. This Minister received such a welcome as nobody, almost no Bengali received in West Bengal. He came at the invitation of the State Government who wanted him. He came as adviser. He stayed there as the Minister. He wanted strengthening of that Ministry. I was one of those who wanted it. All parties welcomed him. The Press welcomed him and gave him the most wonderful welcome. Why is it that the Press which was so much in favour of the present Minister? Why is it that the public of West Bengal was so much in favour of him and willing to put the entire blame on the State Government? Why is it that all the opposition parties together today feel that it would be better if the Minister did not stay? Why is it like that? Let the Minister search his own heart. Was any welcome greater than the welcome of these provincial minded people? . . .

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

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Are the people of west Bengal so provincial-minded when they gave him that wonderful welcome? I will finish in two sentences.

Before I conclude, there is one word I have to say. That is the most im-

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portant thing. Those who are not refugees, wherever we live, should remember that we have the first responsibility towards the refugees. Why? Because, it might have so happened, easily might have happened, that when the Partition of the country came, we might have been the refugees ourselves. That is the treatment that should be given to them by those who are not refugees. It is no use saying that this problem is near completion in West Bengal when it is not. Many things are half-finished. I know that myself.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The two sentences shou'd not be extended.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: I have no time to give you all the information. I beg you to give me an opportunity in future when I can place more facts before this House.

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

Shrimati Renuka Ray: The problem of the refugees, particularly, non-camp refugees should also be solved I suggest that the Prime Minister should take over Dandakaranya under his own control and only then will it succeed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Achint Ram. I should not be compelled to that extent.

श्री अर्चित राम (पटियाला) : जनाब डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, आज इस काम को चलते हुये १३ वर्ष हो गये, और आज यह बात खुशी से कही जा सकती है कि हम ने रिफ्यूजी प्रॉब्लेम पर काबू पा लिया है। यह जो गवर्नमेंट का स्टैंड है में उस के साथ एक हद तक सहमत हूँ। यह अलाहदा बात है अगर यह कहा जाय कि हम ने इस प्रॉब्लेम को साल्व नहीं किया, जब कि सरकार की ओर से यह कहा जाता है कि हम ने वैंस्ट पाकिस्तान की प्रॉब्लेम तो हल कर ली है, मगर यह जरूर है कि हम ने इस पर काबू

जरूर पा लिया है। ईस्ट बंगाल के रिफ्यूजीज के मुतालिक यह खयाल था मिनिस्टर साहब का कि उन्होंने उस पर काबू पा लिया है। एक हद तक काबू पाया भी। इस बारे में जो मुश्किल गवर्नमेंट की या मिनिस्टर साहब की है, उमे हम रिअलाइज कर सकते हैं। अभी चन्द दिन हुये यह खबर निकली कि एक हजार के करीब रिफ्यूजी हर महीने अब भी घा रहे हैं। हम ने समझा था कि मामला खत्म हो गया लेकिन इतने वर्षों के बाद भी मामला चल रहा है, तो उन के बस की क्या बात है? और इसी लिये प्रॉब्लेम बढ़ती जा रही है।

इस रिपोर्ट में एक बात और लिखी है कि जिम्मेदार आफिसर्स जो थे उन में टेम्परा-मेन्टल डिफरेंस हो गया है। मुझे इस का तो पता नहीं था कि क्या टेम्परामेन्टल डिफरेंस हो गया, लेकिन उस का नतीजा यह हुआ कि काम में अड़चन पड़ने लगी और एक तरह से रुकावट पैदा हो गई। एक बात और हम ने रिपोर्ट के अन्दर देखी। बंगाल के २५,००० रिफ्यूजियों को दंडकारण्य में लाने की स्कीम थी। उस में से सिर्फ ८,००० ही पहुंचे। एवन कुछ बनाया गया और बात कुछ बनो। इस के लिये मैं समझता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट की नुकता चीनी करना तो भासान है, लेकिन जो मुश्किलें हैं उन का खयाल कर के फिर राय बनाना ज्यादा मुनासिब होगा। कम से कम मैं तो ऐसा समझता हूँ। अभी दंडकारण्य की काफी बातें कही गईं, लेकिन एक बात मैं जरूर बड़े अदब से कहना चाहूंगा कि मैं महसूस करता हूँ कि दंडकारण्य की स्कीम बड़ी अच्छी है, तरह तरह की बातें हैं, वहां अच्छे आदमी जायें, सब बातों का खयाल धार रखें, लेकिन एक बड़ी बात जो होती है वह यह है कि वहां हजारों एकड़ जमीन मिल रही है, उस जमीन पर काफ्त कैसे हो? मुझे खुशी इस बात की है कि आप वहां पर टैंक बना रहे हैं, दूध बेल बना रहे हैं, साथ ही

यह खुशी की बात है कि आप वहां डैम बना रहे हैं। लेकिन हम को भाखरा डैम का तजुर्बा है कि उस में कितने वर्ष लगे। मैं बड़े भ्रदब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप की भले ही नुक्ता चीनी हो लेकिन डोन्ट माइन्ड कोई भी फिक्क करने की बात नहीं है। जब धन्दर रोटी पड़ जाती है तो सारा क्रिटिसिज्म खत्म हो जाता है। इस डैम को आप कामयाब बना दें। ढाई करोड़ की स्कीम है। मैं समझता हूँ कि दो तीन इस तरह के डैम आप बना दें तो इस प्राब्लेम को हल कर देंगे। मेरा हम्बल सजेशन यह है कि इस तरफ तबज्जह दी जाये, बाकी सब ठीक है।

अब मैं वेस्ट पाकिस्तान के बारे में चन्द अल्फाज अज्रं करना चाहता हूँ। मुझे इस बात की खुशी है कि वेस्ट पाकिस्तान के मुताल्लिक गवर्नमेंट ने यह पोजीशन ले ली कि अब हम अपनी मिनिस्ट्री को एक साल के लिये धीर बढ़ायेंगे। उन्होंने जो आब्जेक्ट्स रखे हैं वह मकामिद भी ठीक हैं। लेकिन यह काम अभी गैरमुकम्मिल है। उन्होंने कहा कि कम्पेन्सेशन का मामला है। कम्पेन्सेशन के रजिस्ट्रेशन का काम, क्लैम्स का काम, प्रापर्टी को मिलाने का काम, यह तमाम काम आप को करने हैं। हम देखते हैं कि कम्पेन्सेशन के मुताल्लिक खासी अमार्उट पे करने के लिये बाकी है। अभी १२८ करोड़ रुपया पे किया गया, दो या सवा दो अरब के करीब रुपया देना था। अभी काफी काम है। मैं उसे कम नहीं समझता। इस रिपोर्ट में लिखा गया कि गवर्नमेंट कामों को बांट रही है, हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री में बांट रही है, लेबर में बांट रही है, नेगोटिएशन्स का काम बांट रही है। मैं बड़ा हैरान था कि क्या जल्दत पड़ गई काम बांटने की। मुझे तो यह पता नहीं कि कोई धीर ज्यादा काम्पिटेंट आदमी इस काम को करने के लिये है धीर आप लेस काम्पिटेंट हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस नेगोटिएशन्स के मामले में अगर किसी स्टेज पर कोई मिनिस्टर कामयाब हो सकता है तो हमारे यही मिनिस्टर

कामयाब हो सकते हैं, वह लेस काम्पिटेंट नहीं हैं। लेकिन भरना कभी हो, पर पहले से लंगोटी लगा कर कब खोद लेना, यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आती। काफी काम करना बाकी है। रिपोर्ट में यह भी लिखा हुआ था कि हम इस वक्त करीब ३६ लाख स्टैन्डर्ड एकड़ जमीन छोड़ कर आर्ये धीर यहां पर हमें २४ लाख स्टैन्डर्ड एकड़ मिली है। इस का मतलब है कि १५ लाख स्टैन्डर्ड एकड़ जमीन कम मिली। अगर कुल जमीन की कीमत के हिसाब से धन्दराजा नगाइये तो चार सौ करोड़ ६० धीर ६७ करोड़ ६० यह कुल करीब ५६७ करोड़ ६० की प्रापर्टी हुई, जिस में से १०० करोड़ ६० मिला, ५६७ करोड़ ६० पड़ा है। जब इनका रुपया पड़ा है तो मुझे पता नहीं है कि उस के बारे में क्या हो रहा है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपने कोई रिमाइन्डर दिया? पूछा कि क्या हो रहा है? आखिरकार कोई बात चीत हुई, कोई कीमत तय की गई? बहरहाल यह मानी हुई बात यह है कि हम ३६ लाख स्टैन्डर्ड एकड़ जमीन छोड़ कर आर्ये हैं, उस में न कुछ बढ़ सकती है धीर न कटू घट सकती है। इस लिये सिर्फ बकाया तय करने की बात रह जाती है। मेरी गुजारिश इस बारे में यही है कि आप सब मामलात को जानते हैं इस लिये कम्पेन्सेशन के मामलात को छोड़िये नहीं। मैं तो यह भी कहूंगा कि हमारे देसाई साहब अभी गये हुए थे डिफेंस के मुताल्लिक बात करने के लिये। कोई ५० करोड़ ६० क लेना देना है इस बारे में। आप को भी इसी तरह से कुछ तय करना चाहिये।

कैम्प के बारे में तय बिया गया था कि हम इडिबिजुअल क्लेम्स को प्रिकरेम देंगे। रिपयूजियों का कोई ५ अरब ८० घटका पड़ा है, जिस में से ५०, ६० या ७० करांड रुपया जमीन का है। अगर यह रुपया मिल सकता है तो मैं स्वीकर साहब की बसातत से कह सकता हूँ कि ५० करोड़ रुपया आप इस तरफ दे दीजिये। बाकी तय करते

[श्री प्रचिंत राम]

रहिरेगा कि और रुपये का क्या होगा। जब ५ अरब ६० आयेगा तो ऐडजस्ट कर लीजियेगा। इस विषय में मिनिस्टर साहब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि अती कमसे कम का मामला पड़ा हुआ है। इस ५ अरब ६० में से मिला क्या? १ अरब ६० हुआ। जो कि हम ने प्राप्त की छोड़ो उस में क्या हुआ? हमारे क्लेम जो थे वह १ ६० के क्लेम ८० आ० में बिके इस का मतलब यह हुआ कि ५ अरब में से मिला ५० कराड़ ६०, और वह भी मिला नहीं। ८० कराड़ ६० बाकी है जो भिँगा। उस में से कितना आप ने ले लिया? इस वास्ते में अग्र कर्कगा कि इन तमाम बातों का खयाल करके दूर प्राण भ्रमना प्रोत्साहन बनाइये। आपने एक साल रक्बा है, मैं कहता हूँ कि कल बन्द कर दीजिये दो महिने बाद बन्द कर दीजिये, लेकिन प्राना काम खत्म कर के बन्द कीजिये। इस में हमें कोई ऐतराज नहीं है।

इन्डो पाकिस्तान मुआहदा हुआ, उस में कुछ गांव दिये गये। शायद पांच गांव दिये गये, मुआहदा हुआ अच्छा हुआ या बुरा हुआ। जिन उन पांच गांवों में रिप्यूजी बसे हुए थे, मैं उनके लिये कोई इन्तजाम नहीं देना, मैं समझता हूँ कि उन का कुछ इन्तजाम करने का बहुत जरूरत है।

कल पंडित ठाकुर दाम भांगव ने मकानात के मूनालिक और किस्वे कैम्प के मूनालिक कहा था। मैं उन से बेहतर इस बात का गरी कह सकता, लेकिन यह मैं जरूर कह सकता हूँ कि यह गलत बात है कि भेरे रिज में मिनिस्टर साहब की गणित्यत ज्यादा दर्द है। मैं गलत बात कहना नहीं चाहता। उन के अन्दर भी काफी दर्द है। लेकिन मैं कहता हूँ कि जब रुपया गवर्नमेंट को लगाना है और जमीन भी आप के पास है तो फिर आप यह क्यों कहते हैं कि कारपोरेशन यह काम करे। मैं गुजारिश करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर कारपोरेशन इस काम को पांच

या दस वर्षों में कर सकता है तो आप दो वर्षों के अन्दर कर सकेंगे। आप को देखना चाहिये कि रिप्यूज का इन्टेस्ट किस में है। आप को इस काम का तजुर्बा है, आप ने लाखों मकानात देखते देखते बना दिये, इस लिये आप इस काम का उन पर मत छोड़ो। आप के अन्दर रिप्यूजियों का खयाल है। वहाँ से कुछ रकबा मिला ही, अगर जमीन की कामत लगायेंगे तो कुछ और रकबा मिला। इन लिये काटने की बात नहीं है। अब मैं किस्वे कैम्प की बात कहता हूँ। जिस्म कितना ही अच्छा हो, कपड़े वगैरह अच्छे पहने हुए हों, तन्दरुस्त हो, लेकिन अगर किमी के मुँह पर एक फोड़ा सा हो तो उस सारे चेहरे को देख कर आदमियों का क्रिटिसिज्म हुआ कि कैसा बदसूरत आदमी है। ग्रीबिनिटेशन महकमे ने लाखों आदमियों को बसाया, लेकिन किस्वे कैम्प का फोड़ा जो उस के मुँह पर है उसे जब कोई आदमी देखता है तो कहता है कि भले ही कुछ काम ग्रीबिनिटेशन डिपार्टमेंट ने किया हो लेकिन यह काम उस की बदनामी की बात है। इस में आप को समझाने की कोई बात नहीं है, मैं आप का समझाऊंगा भी क्या, आप सब कुछ जानते हैं। इस के अलावा मैं समझता हूँ कि गुड की मंडी का मामला पड़ा हुआ है, पर्दा गार्डन का मामला पड़ा हुआ है, आप इन चीजों का कितन पर छोड़ कर जायेंगे। यह सब आप के बच्चे हैं क्या आप अपने बच्चे को दूसरों के हवाले कर जायेंगे? पर्दा गार्डन की बात है, अंगूरी बाग है जो कि आप ने पुराने किले वालों के लिये अलाट कर दिया है, उस को आप डेबेलप कर रहे हैं। आखिरकार यह सब काम कौन करेगा? आप त्याग में आ कर, बैराग में आ कर इस काम को दे देंगे हाउसिंग मिनिस्टर को। लेकिन उस के मूनालिक आप को गोचना चाहिये। हस्पताल स्कूलों और मन्दिरों के वास्ते आपने उनको जमीन दी, उसकी निस्वत आज तक किमी ने बात नहीं पूछी कि कितने स्कूल बने, कितने मन्दिर

बने । मैं किसी मिनिस्टर का दूरा नहीं कहता लेकिन जिस का काम है उसी का साजे । यह सब आप का काम है ।

मैं ने ऊपर मकानात की बात कही, अब मैं हैलथ की बात कहता हूँ । जब तक हमारी मिनिस्ट्री चलती थी, हम मर तां नहीं गये, जिन्दा हो रहे हैं । सब कुछ इन्स्टा कर गये । टी० बी० के पेगेन्ट्स थे, जब टी० बी० पेगेन्ट्स की जरूरत पड़ती थी उस का फॉर्मिना कां ग्रांट दी जाती थी और यही मिनिस्ट्री देती थी । अब हम अगर हैलथ मिनिस्ट्री से कहते हैं तो वह कहते हैं कि हमारे पास रुपया नहीं है । अब क्या किया जाये ? जों आप के पुर्सा हान थे वह दुनिया से चंगे गये, हमारे पास जब रुपया है ही नहीं, तों हम कहाँ में दें ? इसी तरह से एजुकेशन की बात लीजिये । बहुत से लड़के पढ़ रहे हैं, उन को कुछ ग्रांट्स हम लांग दे रहे हैं, लेकिन जिन की तालीम दर्भान में ही रह गई, उन का कैसे आप कुछ देंगे ? मैं कहता हूँ कि यह जों मिनिस्ट्री है उस का लोगों की हैलथ का स्थान करना चाहिये, रिट्रिब्यूटेशन का स्थान करना चाहिये, रिपब्लिकन के कम्प्लेन्शन का स्थान करना चाहिये ।

उसके बाद ट्रस्ट की बात आती है । उन्होंने तय किया कि हम इंडिविजुअल को पे करेंगे, ट्रस्ट को नहीं देंगे । यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आई कि क्या वह कोई अप-वित्र काम है, नाजायज काम है, पब्लिक इंटररेस्ट उस में नहीं है । हमारे यहां सर गंगाराम ट्रस्ट बनाया गया जिस का इवैल्युएशन हुआ । उन का बैरिफाइड बलेम १ करोड़ ७५ लाख का था । सर गंगा राम ट्रस्ट का बैरिफाइड बलेम १ करोड़ ७५ लाख रुपये का था लेकिन उन को बड़ी मुश्किल से १ लाख, २ लाख, ३ लाख कहते कहते १० लाख मिला । अब मिनिस्टर साहब यह सारा काम किस के हवाले करके जाना चाहते हैं ? यह काम कौन करेगा ?

अब आप तो पीठ मोड़ लेंगे कि हम तो भाई गंगा जी को चन्ते हैं लेकिन पीछे उनके इस काम को कौन करेगा ?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर आप उन्को गंगा जी जाने से रोकते हैं तो आप पाप करते हैं ?

लाला अचल राम : मिनिस्ट्री के फल डालने के लिये उनके गंगा जी जाने की बात मैं ने कही है उनके लुद गंगा जी जाने की बात मैं नहीं कहता, मिनिस्ट्री के फल डालने के वाकते मैं ने कहा है । अब दुनिया में काम तो कभी रुकता नहीं है और अगर यह मिनिस्ट्री बाइंड अप हो जाये तो इसके कामों को दूसरी मिनिस्ट्रीज करेंगी लेकिन बेहतर यह होगा कि जो दरभमल में इसका काम है और अभी बाकी रह गया है उसको हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब ही दारम करें ।

अब मेरे कुछ भाई कहने लगे कि वहां (किस्तान में घेन सिडीकेट का २० लाख रुपया पड़ा है । अब उन्होंने शर्त यह लगाई है कि जब वहां के डी० सी० उस पर दस्तखत कर देंगे तब वह हमारा रुपया रिलीज होगा । अब वह रुपया यहां आ गया है और पंजाब नेशनल बैंक से ट्रान्स्क के पास हमारा वह सिक्वोरिटी मनी पड़ा हुआ है लेकिन वह कहते हैं कि जब डी० सी० दस्तखत करेंगे तब वह रुपया मिलेगा । अब मेरी समझ में यह एक मामूली बात है और शायद मिनिस्टर साहब के पास यह केस आयब भी है । जैसे यह बड़ा सिम्पल केस है । २० लाख रुपया उनका पे करना है और उस पर कोई इंटररेस्ट नहीं देना है । अभी तक एक रती और एक पैसा भी उनको पे नहीं किया गया है और मैं चाहता हूँ कि मिनिस्टर महोदय उमके लिये कोई मुनासिब इंतजाम करें ताकि उनको वह रुपया मिल जाये । अब यह और इसी तरह के कितने ही काम करने को पड़े

[लाला प्रचित राम]

हैं और अगर आप अपनी जिम्मेदारी महसूस नहीं करेंगे तो फिर कौन करेगा। आपके लिए काफी काम अभी भी करने को पड़ा हुआ है। मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि मैं पाकिस्तान गया था तो पाकिस्तान जा कर मुझे वहाँ एक नई बात मालूम हुई और मुझे यह कहने में कोई शक नहीं कि अय्यूब साहब का खय्या अर्रच्छा है और लोगों के दिलों के अन्दर ऐसा अरसर है कि यह एक अर्रच्छा चेंज आया है। जब मैं वहाँ लोगों से मिला जो कि अर्रब पक्के पाकिस्तानी नेशनल बन गये हैं तो उन्होंने मुझ से कहा कि अगर इस स्टेज पर एक्सचेंज आफ प्रापरटी की इजाजत हो जाय तो ठीक रहेगा क्योंकि मैं जानता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान के कई ऐसे अरसहाब हैं जो कि यहाँ अपनी प्रापरटी छोड़ कर वहाँ जाना पसन्द करेंगे और इसी तरह पाकिस्तान में कितने ही लोग ऐसे हैं जो कि अपनी प्रापरटी छोड़ कर वहाँ से यहाँ हिन्दुस्तान में आना पसन्द करेंगे। मुझे आपकी डिफिकल्टीज का पता नहीं है लेकिन वैसे यह कोई बहुत बड़ी प्राबलम नहीं है। मैंने एक मुझाब आपको इस बारे में दे दिया है कि अगर ऐसा बंदोबस्त हो सके तो बेहतर रहेगा और इसको जरूर कर लिया जाय। एक्सचेंज आफ प्रापरटीज कोई मास स्केल पर तो होनी नहीं हैं हां इडिबिजुअल वेसिस पर अगर यह एक्सचेंज करने की इजाजत हो जाये तो ठीक रहेगा।

आखिर में मैं एक बात कहूँगा कि अगर आपको कुछ शक है कि हम ऐसी बात कहते हैं जो कि सही और मुनासिब नहीं है तो आप साफ तौर से उसके बारे में हमें बतनाइये। अब जो एक्सेलूशन कर लेते हैं कि कितना काम अभी करने की बाकी है, कितना ट्रस्ट का मामला है और कितना रिहैबिलिटेशन का मामला है अगर आपकी दिख कि बाकी यह काम अभी करने को पड़े

हैं तो फिर इस मिनिस्ट्री को वाइंड अप क्यों किया जा रहा है और आप क्यों नहीं हमारे ट्रस्टी के बतौर अपने मुख्य धर्म का पालन करते जब मैं कहता हूँ कि हमारे मिनिस्टर महोदय को अभी हमारी तरफ से पीठ नहीं मांड लेनी चाहिए और हमें बेपटारा नहीं छोड़ देना चाहिए तो ऐसा मैं कोई उनकी खुशामद में नहीं कहता हूँ और जैसा कि कुछ लोगों का खयाल है कि मैं मिनिस्टर साहब का मुलतानी गवाह हूँ तो वह भी बात नहीं है क्योंकि जब मैं जरूरत समझता हूँ तो उनके बरखिलाफ कहने में भी दरेज नहीं करता। मैं महसूस करता हूँ कि हमारे मिनिस्टर महोदय में वह गेवा की भावना, इनीशिएटिव और काम को भले ही वह कितना ही मुश्किल क्यों न हों अंजाम देने की ऐसी काबलियत है कि उनकी जरूरत देश को हमेशा रहेगी लेकिन जो आपका मुख्य धर्म है उसको निभाहिये बाकी अन्य धर्म भी निभ जायेंगे। देश को आपकी जरूरत सदा बनी रहेगी। मेरे दिल में मंत्री महोदय के लिए सच्ची इज्जत है और ऐसा मैं किसी डर के बायम नहीं कहता और न ही ऐसा ईस्ट बंगाल या वेस्ट पंजाब को ध्यान में रखते हुए कह रहा हूँ। आपने न सिर्फ वेस्टर्न पंजाब के लोगों की इन पांच सालों में काफी खिदमत की बल्कि ईस्टर्न बंगाल के लोगों के लिए भी बहुत अर्रच्छा काम किया और आज भी जो इस दिशा में वे अपने फरायज को अदा कर रहे हैं उनको मैं बलकम करता हूँ। पूर्वी पंजाब और पश्चिमी बंगाल के इंटरैस्ट्स में आप जो काम कर रहे हैं उसके लिए मैं आपको मुबारकबाद देता हूँ। आपके कामों का मूल्यांकन बाद में होगा और आपके जाने के बाद होगा। बस मैं और अधिक न कह कर समाप्त करता हूँ और आशा करता हूँ कि मैं ने जो चन्द गुजरियात की हैं उन पर मुनासिब खयाल किया जायगा।

Shri Bimal Ghose (Barrackpore):
Sir, I would like to confine myself to the problem in the eastern region; not that I believe the western region problem has been completely solved, but

other hon. friends will take that up and I have no personal knowledge of that.

If it is assumed, as it should be, that the task of the Rehabilitation Ministry is not merely to provide doles or relief but to provide economic rehabilitation to the refugees, then the performance of the Rehabilitation Ministry judged by any yardstick that we may take must be considered to be a dismal failure.

Let us understand as to what has happened to the East Pakistan refugees. Two policy decisions were taken by the Government, which were in flagrant violation of the assurances that were given to the minority community of East Pakistan, both, as the hon. Minister would say, to contain the East Pakistan refugee problem. One was taken in 1956 which virtually sealed the border. I do not say the border was sealed, but migration certificates would not be allowed and they were allowed under very stringent conditions which could not be fulfilled. The other decision was taken in 1958—I do not know what month—that no refugees coming after would be entitled to any rehabilitation benefit. I say both these decisions, you will understand, in the context of the assurances that were given at the time of partition of the country, were extremely unfair, particularly in the eastern region.

Then, having contained the problem that way, let us understand what has been done. If we take it that about 32 lakh refugees have come into West Bengal, then, out of that, 8 lakhs did not ask for any assistance from the Rehabilitation Ministry. About 21 to 22 lakhs were refugees who only obtained partial assistance or, as the Minister would say had obtained assistance from the Rehabilitation Ministry. If you take the expenditure that has been incurred on these refugees—between 20 lakhs and 22 lakhs—you will find that the per capita expenditure comes to about Rs. 350 or so. The Minister would not

tell me that these people could have been rehabilitated with that paltry sum.

Then there is the question of two lakh refugees who are in camps and about whom Shrimati Renuka Ray has rightly pointed out and said that we are worrying ourselves about these particular refugees. What has happened to these two lakh refugees in the camp? That also requires some elucidation, because in 1958 I believe a decision was taken that 35,000 families would be taken out of Bengal and put either in Dandakaranya or outside, and that 10,000 families would be rehabilitated in Bengal by the West Bengal Government. I do not know what was the actual number of persons. The number of families was about 45,000 and if you take five per family, it comes to 2,25,000. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the 10,000 families, for which responsibility was taken by the West Bengal Government, have already been taken out of the refugee camps and whether the camp population today is the sole responsibility of the Central Government. The camp population today is about 1,30,000. What has happened to them? Even if it were 30,000 to 35,000 families only, which would come to about 1,75,000 persons, at five persons per family, is the diminution or decline due to any screening? Some have been taken out to Dandakaranya; it is about 8,000 only, until about March. So, we should like to know some facts from the hon. Minister as to what is the number that has been taken out, what was the original responsibility, what he has done so far and what is the residuary problem.

Next comes the question of Dandakaranya, because Dandakaranya was supposed to provide for these camp families. Before I come to the camp families, I would like to say a few words about the non-camp families to which reference was made by Shrimati Renuka Ray. The non-camp families have not at all been rehabilitated. Incidentally, I should like

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to say that when camp families are shifted to Dandakaranya and other places, then preference should be given to non-camp refugees in Bengal in Dandakaranya over other people, because, the hon. Minister would agree with me that they have not at all been rehabilitated. Even the State Finance Minister stated that about 60 to 70 per cent. of them were not at all rehabilitated. So, there is a responsibility, on this question, cast on the Ministry. If rehabilitation is our primary objective, then there is the responsibility of the Rehabilitation Ministry in relation to the non-camp families.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: It is not very clear to me. I would like the hon. Member to elucidate it a little further. Is it the intention of the hon. Member that after the refugees who are in camps in West Bengal have been rehabilitated either in Dandakaranya or by the State Government there, then we should take a large body of persons who are partially rehabilitated from West Bengal to Dandakaranya?

Shri Bimal Ghose: Yes; those persons who are willing to go and who are non-camp displaced persons at the moment. About Dandakaranya, there is a mystery as to what is happening there. Firstly, the difficulty is about the conflict between two Governments. How did this difficulty arise? The hon. Minister here says that he has done everything in consultation with the State Government, but the State Government do not agree with that statement. Where lies the truth and how are we to find it out? In regard to Dandakaranya, tall claims have always been made by the Rehabilitation Minister. They have all stated that they would discharge so much of work by such and such a period, but they knew that such and such work could not be done within such and such a period, because it was not possible to do that much of rehabilitation within that period of time. It is said in the note that has

been given to us,—the note which gives the details of the progress of the Dandakaranya project—in the first paragraph—that the State Government had a programme to remove 5,000 to 6,000 families by 31st March but that they had only moved 1,464 families. There is a dig at the West Bengal Government. I understand that the State Government had not been able to move all the families they wanted to move. The fact is that the Rehabilitation Minister stated in the local Assembly in West Bengal on the 1st April, that they were not willing to move any displaced person to Dandakaranya unless the conditions in Dandakaranya were adequate and satisfactory.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The movement was to have started from October-November-December and January.

Shri Bimal Ghose: I have seen that. It has declined in March again. But it is also a fact that the State Rehabilitation Minister stated in the West Bengal Assembly that the conditions in Dandakaranya at present were not satisfactory and there was a danger if the refugees go there that they might come back. Therefore, unless the State Government is satisfied that the conditions there are satisfactory and adequate, they will not take up the responsibility of moving the displaced persons there. They also stated that the Union Rehabilitation Minister has not done his duty properly in that notices are issued to refugees without linking them to specific schemes. I hope the hon. Minister will explain where lies the difference between himself and the State Rehabilitation Minister.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: No difference.

Shri Bimal Ghose: The Union Rehabilitation Minister stated that notices were being issued in consultation with and by the State Government, whereas the State Rehabilitation Minister has said that the notices

were issued not according to what was agreed upon but in accordance with the wishes of the Rehabilitation Minister at the Centre, and that there was no linking with specific Schemes. I would like to know what has happened to the 8,000 persons who have been taken to Dandakaranya. As far as our information goes, upto the end of February, not more than about 90 families were given land for cultivation. What has happened to the others? How are they being employed in Dandakaranya? Land could not be given to many people because only about 7,000 acres of land were reclaimed, as has been stated. Out of that, a little less than 2,000 acres have been distributed to the tribal areas; if we take it that seven acres are to be distributed per family, then, there is not enough land to be given to the families that have moved to Dandakaranya, with the result that they must be employed otherwise. Even if we go up to the end of June, by which time the hon. Minister expects to reclaim about 9,000 acres of land, how many displaced persons can be settled on land on 9000 acres? I would like to know that, because, that would give us an idea as to the number of displaced persons who could be moved to Dandakaranya with a view to be rehabilitated. The hon. Minister himself has stated that most of the families who are now in the camps are agriculturists and they have to be settled on land. I am also told that those who have been given land have been given land which is full of stumps and roots. So that the land cannot be cultivated properly; that the title has not been passed on to them; that they have not been given any agricultural implements or equipment to cultivate the land. In the circumstances, probably they would not be able to cultivate the land that has been given to them, in this season. What is the position? These are the things that have been stated to us. I would like the hon. Minister to clarify the position in Dandakaranya.

Some other points about Dandakaranya have also been made: how

the displaced persons have been treated there; how, when they were first taken there, there was lack of even drinking water, etc. These have been referred to by other hon. Members and it would be only a repetition if I were to mention them again, and I have no time to refer to them either.

As it appears now, in Dandakaranya 9,000 acres can be reclaimed by the end of June. The season will again begin in October-November and not more than 2,000 to 3,000 acres of land, or probably not more than 4,000 acres of land would be reclaimed by the end of the year. So, if 2,000 to 3,000 acres are reclaimed throughout the year, I do not know how many families the hon. Minister could really rehabilitate. It is no good making big claims and one of the reasons why he is in this difficulty today is that claims have been made which have not materialised subsequently. If he had not made those claims, I think the position would have been very much better. It is a fact that in the beginning he got a very hearty reception in Bengal. I would like to ask him today the question he asked the other day in this House, viz., why is it that he is not today so much welcome? The Minister explained that that was probably due to his having dispensed with a particular officer. I should say that is a very uncharitable explanation, because the people of Bengal are not concerned with any particular officer. The reason is—if he will examine the whole case himself—his policy has failed and all this condemnation today is an expression of the dissatisfaction of the people of Bengal at the failure of the policy he has adumbrated. He is made responsible, I think quite legitimately, because the Minister had outlined a policy which he has not been able to implement. Therefore, in a parliamentary system of Government, he must accept the responsibility for this failure. To that extent, I do not think the agitation that is now today going on in Bengal is in any way unfair.

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My next point is about the approach to the problem of rehabilitation by the Minister. I think the approach is wrong. All the time he has said, the camps must be closed down by a particular date, whether it is July, 1959, December, 1960 or March, 1961. The real attitude which will be appreciated by the refugees is rehabilitation by a particular date. I wish the Minister would say, "I would rehabilitate all the refugees by a particular date". The result will be the same, because if he succeeds in rehabilitating the refugees, his work will be done. So, the emphasis should be on rehabilitation and not on closing down the camps, because the idea has got around that the Minister is anxious to close the camps anyhow whether by screening, driving them out or imposing on them impossible conditions. That idea should not get around. Therefore, the Minister should try to reorient his attitude and say, "I shall take upon myself the responsibility and I shall rehabilitate the refugees by a particular date". When they are rehabilitated and then if he goes, nobody will say anything, because even in the West Bengal Government resolution, which the Congress also approved, it was stated that the Rehabilitation Ministry should not be closed by the 31st March, 1961. Not that the people of West Bengal have any particular love for the Rehabilitation Minister or Ministry, but because they feel that the task will not be completed by that date. If the task could be completed, if the Minister could give an assurance that he will really provide economic rehabilitation to the refugees in West Bengal and if he gets higher jobs, nobody would be sorry. Even if he gets now he may go, but the Ministry may continue.

So far as East Pakistan refugees are concerned, they have always been at a disadvantage compared to the West Pakistan refugees. They have never got any compensation because of certain circumstances. I think the Minister will realise that although theoretically they may sell their lands,

practically they cannot. Therefore, something should be done, so that the compensation facilities given to the West Pakistan refugees may also be given to East Pakistan refugees.

Then, there is this question of retrenchment to which other hon. Members have also referred. I would not like the hon. Minister to turn into refugees again the people who have been employed under his Ministry. I think he will take it on himself to see that not only the employees who are in the Secretariat, but also who are in the branch offices and other offices are fully employed if and when the work of the department is curtailed or the department is absolutely closed down.

Shri A. C. Guha: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, ever since I came to Parliament and the Ministry of Rehabilitation was created, every year that I have been sitting as a private Member in this House, I have participated in the debate on this Ministry. Only last year, I began my speech with an optimistic tone. Year after year, I have been bitter critic of the entire administration of the Rehabilitation work.

Last year the optimism was occasioned by certain things done and I expect the hon. Minister will be able to assure the House that that optimism will be maintained, even if at present it has come under certain clouds and something has happened which has made us doubtful about that optimistic view. I think most of the troubles the Minister is facing today have come from an unrealistic approach that the Ministry or the Government have taken in this matter. In 1958, an announcement was made that in July, 1959, the camps will be closed. It was an unrealistic and unwise decision. Then the target about the Dandakaranya scheme also was unrealistic and optimistic. I should not lay all the blame on the Minister himself, because it was a decision of the entire Cabinet, arrived at after full discussion in the Cabinet. It was

an unrealistic decision to say that the primeval forests of Dandakaranya could be cleared up and thousands of acres of land reclaimed by a certain date as fixed.

From this report which has been circulated to us, we find that out of 70,000 acres to be reclaimed, the Ministry has got only 32,000 acres released by the two respective Governments. So, the target was certainly unrealistic. The Ministry could not reclaim 70,000 acres when the Ministry had got only 32,000 acres of land from the two respective Governments, who were really the owners of that land. As regards the movement of refugees, it has been stated here that it was arranged that the West Bengal Government would send 5682 families by the end of March, 1960, but they have sent only 1464 families.

In this connection, I would like to refer the hon. Minister to a statement made by his counterpart in the West Bengal Government. On the 2nd April, he said:

"The only difference that existed (between the West Bengal Government and the Central Government) was that the State Government suggested to the Union Government that the latter (i.e. the Union Government) should serve notice on camp refugees only when plans and schemes were matured and they could be removed and not before that."

So, the West Bengal Government wanted notices to be served on refugees against specific schemes only and they were against giving notice on an *enmasse* scale. The hon. Minister should make the position clear in this respect, as to who really served the notice. If the West Bengal Government demand that notices should be served only when plans are ready to absorb the refugees, I do not think that is an unrealistic and unjustified claim. Who served the

notices on so many refugees, which created a lot of trouble in Bengal and hardships for the refugees? It was not possible either for the Government or for the Dandakaranya Development Authority to receive that number of refugees. Then why have notices been served? And who served the notices? Was there any policy decision on this matter either by the Central Government or the State Government?

From this note I find that practically nothing has been done about small-scale industries. Dhanki industry is not an occupation in that sense of the term to provide suitable means of livelihood. Only twenty automatic looms have been installed and nothing else has practically been done. I would like to know whether the Government has got any scheme in this matter. Out of the reclaimed land of 7,132 acres, after giving 1,790 acres to the Adibasis, the remaining 5,342 acres have to be distributed to 1,785 families. So, they will get at the rate of 3 acres per family though the target is at least 7 acres, if not more. It is not possible to rehabilitate even this number of refugees who have been moved there to be rehabilitated on land and there is no scheme as yet initiated for cottage and small-scale industries. So, what is the actual proposal before the Government for the rehabilitation of the refugees there?

I do not like to refer much to the very regrettable dispute that has come out in the paper and also in the Bengal Assembly. I wish my hon. friend, Shri Bhattacharya, had not referred to this matter at all. I think he might better have kept out of that dispute. I only expect that after the visit of Dr. B. C. Roy to the Dandakaranya area some amicable settlement would be arrived at. If necessary, the Prime Minister should take the initiative in settling this dispute.

I am very earnest and serious about the Dandakaranya scheme. It is neces-

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sary not only for the welfare of the East Bengal refugees alone but for the economic reconstruction of West Bengal as well. West Bengal requires some outlet for its population which has reached the saturation point. So, I support the demand made out by Shri Ghose that the facilities that are now created in Dandakaranya should not be limited to the camp refugees alone. About eight to ten lakhs refugees have not taken any aid from the Government so long, because they have been denied any aid. Why should they not be given some opportunity for rehabilitation in Dandakaranya, if they like to go there?

I should also like to refer to the care of the partial rehabilitated refugees. On a previous occasion, I referred to that matter and said that loans were given in small instalments and in such a way that nobody could be rehabilitated in that way. Rs. 500 were given for house building in 3 or 4 instalments spread over a period of three years, minus some amount to be paid for the tents etc. No wonder that they could not be rehabilitated by taking advantage of that. If there was anything wrong in the rehabilitation scheme, that wrong should be remedied either by the Central Government or the State Government. In any case the refugees have not committed any offence. Why should they be denied rehabilitation for the failure or their rehabilitation due to faulty administration of the scheme? So, I would suggest that the Minister should look into the question of the partially rehabilitated refugees also. This is not the first time that I am making this suggestion. Every time I stand up to speak on the Demands of the Rehabilitation Ministry, I refer to this. On the 3rd of March also I referred to this, though it was somewhat out of place on that occasion. Even then I suggested that the question of the partially rehabilitated refugees should not be outside the points for consideration. The hon. Minister then interrupted and said "He is referring to the old cases".

Yes, they may be old cases. But the Government as a whole is responsible for the rehabilitation of these people.

About the Dandakaranya scheme I would like to suggest certain things. In this connection, I would like to refer to the discussion in the Bengal Assembly. At present, it appears there is no phased programme for the removal of refugees there. Is there any phased programme connected with specific schemes, with proper facilities created for rehabilitation and for proper accommodation there or haphazardly the refugees are removed there?

About the West Bengal Assembly Resolution, of course, I would not like that Resolution to be moved in a matter like that in the State Assembly. But, really speaking, I do not think there is anything very unjust in that resolution. The first part of it says that the Ministry should not be closed by 1961. That demand has been made by every member of this House and I am also making it. The second point is that the West Bengal Government should be more closely associated with the Dandakaranya Development Project and on that the hon. Minister has assured us to consult the West Bengal Government on important matter. The third point is that the departments in the Dandakaranya dealing with education, health and social services should have officers who have intimate knowledge of the customs, culture and language of the East Bengal refugees. The Minister admits that they have been doing that also. I would not make any claim on the ground of officers belonging to certain States but there should be a psychological integration within the administration and of the refugees. Without that psychological integration rehabilitation cannot be properly done. So, on this demand also we could not say that such a demand should not have been made. Then, adequate funds should be allocated by the Central Government to

the Government of West Bengal. The State Governments have always been asking for that from the Central Government. So, that is not anything unusual. The fifth point is that the Chief Minister of West Bengal should present their case before the Central Government. As far as the Resolution goes, I do not think there is anything wrong in that or anything anti-Union Government or anti-Minister as such. There might have been something in the speeches, but we should not concern ourselves with that.

About the Dandakaranya scheme I would suggest that the refugees removed there should be associated intensely and intimately with the development works, of course, consistent with their working capacity. They should not be made to work in such a manner as their physical condition cannot bear. But consistent with their physical capacity they should be intimately associated with the development works, which can provide them some means of livelihood.

Then, as far as possible, contracts should be given to the refugees themselves, especially small contracts. There may be some big contracts which require expert knowledge or big capital which cannot be handled by them. All small contracts should be given to the refugees, either to their co-operative societies or to groups of refugees. Purchases should also, as far as possible, be made from the products of the refugees. Here I want to make my position clear. I know that Orissa and Madhya Pradesh have got a claim over anything that is going on in the Dandakaranya area. The Adibasis also have a claim.

Shri Mahanty: What is wrong with it?

Shri A. C. Guba: I shall never say that any claim of Bengal should go contrary to or supersede the interests of the local people. I should never make that suggestion. But, consis-

tent with the claims of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh people, and also the local Adibasis, I think the next priority should be given to the Bengal refugees and, as far as possible, they should be accommodated and provided work in the services, in purchasing, in contracts, in fact in the whole development scheme.

On the 3rd of March the hon. Minister has made a statement in this House about the tractors. I hope he would in future be more particular in taking the right tractors. Some tractors were taken from the Central Tractor Organisation, some sawing machines from Faridabad or Nilokheri and some tractors from the trial manufacture by the ordnance factories and they have not given him good service so long.

14 hrs.

I think much of the delay in reclamation may be due to this. So he should not consider that this scheme is just a promotion scheme for the development of other industries or for dumping of scraps from other establishments. It is primarily a scheme for the development of that area to rehabilitate the East Pakistan refugees and subsequently for other considerations.

Before I conclude.....

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Before he sits down I want one clarification.

Shri A. C. Guba: I do not want to be interrupted.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Only a clarification. The hon. Member has just now said that all those persons in West Bengal who have not received any rehabilitation benefits up till now—he used the word 'denied' which I do not accept and the number was also given as 8 to 10 lakh persons—after the camp ended should also be taken there. The second thing is that he has said about partially rehabilitated families. Could he give me some idea about that?

Shri A. C. Guha: I think 21 or 22 lakhs have been claimed to have been rehabilitated but most of them are partially rehabilitated.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Only partially.

Shri A. C. Guha: I think the Government should make proper assessment as to how many of them have been properly rehabilitated. I would suggest that Shri Achint Ram and Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava go and make an assessment. I do not suggest any Bengali to be sent there. He may be partial. I would suggest even Lala Achint Ram alone. Let him go there. I would claim that on behalf of the refugees I can give him the entire responsibility. Let him go and make an assessment as to how many of them have been properly rehabilitated, that is, in the sense of economic rehabilitation. If they have not been economically rehabilitated, whatever the number, the hon. Minister must take charge of them. By the word hon. Minister I mean the Government of India; I do not mean Shri Mehr Chand Khanna personally.

Before I conclude I should make one submission. The East Bengal refugees have not got any compensation. That is a point which the Government should consider. When the Compensation Act was passed conditions were somewhat different. That condition has totally and completely changed now. The hon. Minister is also the hon. Minister of Minority Affairs. He knows the conditions now prevailing in East Bengal. There is a deliberate policy of squeezing out the minority in East Bengal. He cannot deny that. As a result of that in spite of the strictness in the issue of migration certificates a large number of people belonging to the minorities are now migrating from East Bengal. They cannot sell their property. There is no possibility of that. Those who have come have also left their property behind. What will happen to them?

It is claimed that nearly Rs. 66 crores have been spent so far on the rehabilitation of about 22 lakhs of refugees. That means on each refugee only Rs. 300/- have been spent. That cannot be considered a proper amount for rehabilitation. So I would suggest that either he may take up the matter with the Pakistan Government that those refugees who have come or who are willing to come may be compensated by the Pakistan Government and their assets may be transferred or the Government of India should take some measures. If the Government here cannot give them compensation as in the case of West Pakistan displaced persons, at least they should try to write off the loans.

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

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

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already overdrawn by two minutes.

Shri A. C. Guha: You know, Sir, I am a refugee. I can claim some sympathy.

Shri C. D. Fande (Nani Tal): He has been in India for the last 20 years.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He should show as much concern to the refugees as he claims for himself.

Shri C. D. Fande: The Chair is also a refugee.

Shri A. C. Guha: You are disconnecting my whole trend.

So I would suggest that the loans now pending against the refugees should be scaled down or in some

cases should be completely written off. Let the refugees feel that they are honoured citizens of India. Let them not feel cringing and crafty. Let them not develop some crafty outlook as to how to evade the payment of loans and how to evade their dues to psychological the Government. This is a approach which the Government should adopt. They will not be able to realise the loans. The West Bengal Government had made it a condition that hundred per cent the loss would be of the Central Government. So, it is admitted that the Government of India would not be able to realise that. So why put burden of this loan on them? Why make them feel that they are all indebted to the Government of India and all the time trying somehow to evade this? This mental attitude of theirs should be removed by a serious approach.

Lastly, I say, that this decision about the sealing of the border also should be reconsidered. A large number of people are still migrating. They may not be accommodated in camps but some provision should be made about them.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal (Uluberia): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a time has come to re-assess the situation that has arisen in West Bengal on the rehabilitation problem. Time has also come to review the Rs. 100 crores project of Dandakaranya. Time has also come to consider the activities of the Rehabilitation Ministry, specially the activities of our ambitious hon. Minister, Shri Khanna. We are flooded with bulletins full of statistics and always a wrong picture has been given to us. But from those statistics I can give you the real information about his performance.

The hon. Rehabilitation Minister took direct responsibility in rehabilitation matters in 1957. At the end of 1956 there were 2,17,000 refugees in West Bengal. In the beginning of 1957 the hon. Minister said.....

An Hon. Member: In camps.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Yes.

In the beginning of 1957 the hon. Minister said that he would take the responsibility of about 55,000 families comprising about 2½ lakhs people. In 1957 he could rehabilitate 7,000 families only outside West Bengal. Till December, 1958, he gave rehabilitation to 4,000 families more. In 1959 he could give rehabilitation only to 2,000 families. So the total comes to 13,000 families out of 55,000 families.

In 1957 he announced that he has got 10,02,000 acres of cultivable land in Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Now his statistics reveal that he has been able to prepare schemes for 50,000 acres only. In 1956 Rs. 2,07,00,000 were sanctioned for the development of colonies of non-camp refugees. In 1957 the sanction came down to Rs. 56 lakhs and in 1958 to Rs. 45 lakhs only. In many cases the actual payment of the sanctioned money has not yet been made though several years have passed.

In 1957 he promised that he would legalise the colonies speedily. In the last three years only 80 colonies have been legalised out of 140 colonies. He assured that he would make arrangements for the employment of 9,000 persons by giving financial aid to 19 factories. For that scheme Rs. 2,45,00,000 were sanctioned. But out of this amount only Rs. 1,39,00,000 have been granted and only 2,000 refugees have been employed out of the 8,000.

I want to give further examples of his performance. 441 rehabilitation centres are said to have been set up from the beginning. Do you know how many colonies have received financial help and how many are habitable? Out of 441 centres only 44 centres are fully developed colonies and 24 colonies have been partially developed. The remaining 373 colonies have received no help from the Government and are quite unfit

[Shri Aurobindo Ghosal]

for human habitation. Two schemes for the development of 373 colonies were submitted to the Ministry but only 18 have been approved and 355 have been refused the development grant. Out of 24 colonies which were approved for partial help, 13 colonies have got the money and the rest have not yet received it. Upto March, 1959, Rs. 43,71,00,000 were spent for the camp refugees who are awaiting rehabilitation for the last eight or nine years.

Now after spending this amount the Government has come to the conclusion that 70 per cent of the refugees are not entitled to get any rehabilitation benefit. In fact from 1947 to 1959 financial help or rehabilitation was only to the tune of Rs. 19,28,00,000. Out of the remaining Rs. 47,33,00,000 only Rs. 44,00,000 have been spent for the maintenance of the refugees in camps. This amount has been completely misspent for the slackness of the Ministry in rehabilitating the camp refugees. But now he wants to close down the camps in West Bengal by 1961. But besides the camp refugees there are eight lakhs non-camp refugees who are dragging on with a miserable life in West Bengal. There are 1 lakh refugees driven from various camps on different pleas who are roaming unemployed in towns and cities of West Bengal. Half of the 23 lakhs of people who have rehabilitated themselves on their own efforts and at their own expenses are living on their slender resources.

As regards camp refugees, by 1960-61 the hon. Minister will not be in a position to rehabilitate more than 12000 families out of 35,000 families which he has promised to rehabilitate.

Now I come to Dandakaranaya project. The Dandakaranaya project was evolved in 1957 for solving the refugee problem of West Bengal. The Dandakaranaya project came into existence because the Central Government took the responsibility of the 80 per cent of 3 lakhs camp refugees of West

Bengal. Now, we have to see if there has been any progress in Dandakaranaya since its inception. I do not say of the progress in paper or in the bulletins of the Ministry which mislead the readers.

In January 1957 the Rehabilitation Sub-Committee of the Cabinet made four decisions. The Cabinet was of the opinion that West Bengal had attained the saturation point. Naturally they decided firstly that the Dandakaranaya area will be developed so that both the East Pakistan refugees and Adibasis can reside. Secondly, in course of time the area will be rehabilitated by 40 lakhs of people out of whom 50 per cent. will be refugees and 50 per cent will be Adibasis. Thirdly, an Authority for Dandakaranaya will be formed in which the Central Government and the State Governments concerned shall have their representatives. Fourthly, this area for administrative purpose will be under the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation.

So, the idea was that 20 lakhs of refugees of West Bengal will get the benefit of rehabilitation in Dandakaranaya, not 2,40,000 refugees. Subsequently the Rehabilitation Ministry said that their aim was not to make provision for 20 lakhs of people but for only 2 lakhs of people. In 1958-59 the target still came down to 50,000 refugees. Have they been able to achieve that target even? No, Sir. The Rehabilitation Minister and his colleagues declared that before the end of 1959 20,000 families will be provided in Dandakaranaya. But in reality upto March, 1960, only 1500 families have been taken as against 20,000 families. Even these 1500 families have not been rehabilitated on land and the majority of them are living in camps in Dandakaranaya and they are employed in the work of clearing jungles like slaves without knowing what is in store for them in future.

There were schemes for constructing villages for refugees in Dandakaranaya. How has it been implemented? In 1958-59 the target was for setting up 28 villages, but not a single village was completed. In 1959-60 the target was for setting up 57 villages, but the work for even a single village has not yet been started. In 1960-61 the target is for setting up 95 villages. During the last three years 25 villages might be constructed.

In the blue-print issued in the beginning of 1958, the scheme was for reclaiming 1,43,000 acres of land in five areas of Dandakaranaya but it was subsequently reduced to 75,000 acres of land. But till now only 4,000 acres of land have been reclaimed and trees covering 6000 acres of land have been cut.

In the beginning of 1958 it was decided that arrangements for establishing cottage industries will be made, that multi-purpose farming including agriculture and poultry will be made, that small factories for manufacturing agricultural implements will be set up, that vocational and craftsmanship training centres will be set up and that educational units will also be opened. It was also estimated that more than 30,000 persons will be employed in these works. But not a single item has yet been implemented and 18 months have been taken to set up a Directorate for this purpose. Only a saw mill was set up which is now on the point of being closed down.

Sir, this is the position about Dandakaranaya. As regards the policy of employing persons it was decided that the refugees and the Adibasis will be given preference. But I regret to say that the percentage of refugee employees is only 12. As regards the tribal people their percentage does not come to anything at all. The West Bengal Government has been merely an onlooker for the last four years since 1957. There are already 25 lakhs of refugees in West Bengal and

the Minister wants to wind up his business by presenting 2 lakhs of refugees to the overburdened West Bengal.

The conditions of the refugees who have been sent to other States are miserable. The refugees were sent to Orissa but no attempt was made to rehabilitate them.

In 1950 after the communal trouble in East Pakistan Dr. Mahtab promised to rehabilitate 25,000 refugees in his State and according to his assurance 35,000 refugees were sent to Orissa but all of them came back because of the mismanagement of the Rehabilitation Ministry in their rehabilitation. But still about 12,000 refugees are residing there, Charbatia camp has been closed and a large number of refugees sent to Orissa have not yet been rehabilitated, though a sum of Rs. 2 crores and 58 lakhs has been spent for them up to date. Dr. Mahtab had complained that the sudden stoppage of grants to Orissa Government for rehabilitation of refugees had hampered the rehabilitation works in Orissa.

In Bihar, Batia camp has been closed though 543 families have yet to be rehabilitated.

In the month of November, December and January, 1791 refugees were sent to U.P. and Madhya Pradesh but none of them has yet been rehabilitated.

This is the present situation so far the rehabilitation programme is concerned.

Now, Sir, I want to know who is responsible for this great bungling? Who is squandering away public money in the name of rehabilitating refugees? Who is gambling with the lives of 3 lakhs of people besides other non-camp refugees? With all respects I must say that the responsibility lies on the hon. Minister.

[Shri Aurobindo Ghosal]

Sir, all the political parties including the Congress have strongly criticised the hon. Minister and made him responsible. On behalf of the West Bengal refugees, I beg to place some demands. The first demand is that Shri Khanna must resign. Secondly, Dandakaranaya Development Authority should be reconstituted, and thirdly, the representatives of West Bengal and Andhra must be there. Fourthly, Dandakaranaya Development Authority should be endowed with more powers and will be directly under the control of Parliament. Fifthly, more employment should be provided to refugees and Adibasis. Sixthly, refugees should live in unity and peacefully with the tribal people. At present the authorities by their actions are trying to poison the relations of refugees with the Adibasis and local Muslims. They should give up this sinister attempt. No refugee should be taken to Dandakaranaya without proper arrangements for drinking water and a proper supply of irrigation water must be made before they are sent there. The present camps of refugees in Dandakaranaya should be replaced by huts. They must know what is their title. They do not like to quarrel with their Adibasi friends because two types of lands are being allotted, one is Adibasi land and the other is khas land. Then, assurances should be given that no increase in rent will be made.

Rehabilitation should be made not by dribbles of 50 families but by chunks of 200 or 300 families in order to maintain their cultural and social life.

I would suggest that no refugee should be taken from West Bengal before proper arrangements are made. No doles should be stopped till they have been rehabilitated. No education facilities should be stopped. No camp should be declared closed till all of them are fully rehabilitated. More money should be given for the reclamation of land to West Bengal and similarly more money should be

given for establishing industries in the public sector in West Bengal. Lastly, the bairanama scheme should be reintroduced.

If these demands are granted I assure the House and the hon. Minister that we will all support him and will make Dandakaranaya a success.

Sir, a great philosopher once said, "You can befool some men for all times and you can befool all men for sometime but you cannot befool all men for all times".

Shri Shobha Ram (Alwar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will confine myself to three major problems of the displaced persons of the western zone. One is with regard to the non-claimant displaced persons in relation to the status of their allotments. Secondly, I would deal the question with regard to the management of the acquired evacuee land and thirdly with regard to the question of compensation which has accrued to the Meo Biswadars as a result of the enforcement of the Rajasthan Zamindari and Biswadari Abolition Act of 1959.

With regard to the non-claimant agricultural displaced person, I find that the value of the agricultural evacuee land in possession of the displaced persons has been fixed at the rate of Rs. 450 per standard acre. The determination of this value will apply in three cases: firstly, for purposes of adjustment of the value of land in possession of the claimants; secondly for the purpose of selling the agricultural evacuee land in possession of the local pattedars to the State Government; thirdly, for purposes of determining the proprietary rights to be given to the non-claimant displaced persons.

I do not want to deal with the first two categories at the present moment, but with regard to the third category, I would submit one thing.

As we all know, agricultural displaced persons mostly from areas other than Punjab were settled on a temporary basis. Such allotments were made purely on a rehabilitation basis, irrespective of the fact whether such allottees owned land in Pakistan or not. There are two issues involved in this connection, so far as the displaced persons settled in the districts of Alwar and Bharatpur of Rajasthan are concerned. Firstly, will the khatedari rights be given to them without paying any charge of the land for the simple reason that their allotments were made purely on a rehabilitation basis, and that their claims below Rs. 20,000 were not entertained? Secondly, will they continue to remain simply as tenants, and not be ejected unless they want to acquire the ownership right by paying the price of the land in 15 instalments.

Before coming to the first question, I would like to deal with the second one, that is, with regard to the status of these displaced persons as tenants. We know that there is wrong impression given to the displaced persons of Alwar and Bharatpur Districts that in every case they will have to part with the price of the land, even if they do not want to acquire ownership rights. Under rule 63 of the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954, we have given the option to the displaced persons that if they want to acquire the ownership right, they have to pay the price, but not in every case. I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister to issue a circular to this effect that all non-claimant agricultural displaced persons settled in these districts will continue to remain in possession for ever without paying any price for the land, but that if they wanted to acquire ownership rights, they will have to pay the price of the land.

With regard to the proprietary rights to be given to the non-claimant agricultural displaced persons, I quite concede that they should be given only when they pay the price of the

land, but if they are not proprietors, what is the status of these allottees in these two districts?

The system of land tenure prevailing in Rajasthan envisages certain rights even for the sub-tenants. Under the Rajasthan Tenancy Act of 1955 every cultivator who, at the commencement of the Act, was a tenant of the land otherwise than as a sub-tenant or tenant of a *khudkasht*, became a *khatedar* tenant, because the *khatedar* tenant has got the right to transfer his land by sale or gift; he can effect a simple and usufructory mortgage of his holding. Not only that, even the sub-tenant or tenant of a *khudkasht* has got the right to cultivate the land; he cannot be ejected except for non-payment of rent or any act detrimental to or illegal transfer of the land. He can make certain improvements upon his land too.

Such is the condition of the tenant under the Tenancy Act of Rajasthan. In the light of this, the position and status of the allottees should be considered.

In this connection, I would like to quote the reply of the Ministry of Rehabilitation given to a memorandum submitted by the President of the Rajasthan Purushartha Sammelan, which is as follows:

"Although occupancy rights in evacuee lands have not been given, it may be mentioned that as a matter of fact, the allottees are not being ejected from these lands and are continuing in their allotments. However, to acquire ownership rights, they will have to pay the price of the land in 15 instalments as mentioned above. The *khatedar* does not seem to possess any such right of acquiring proprietary rights over the land cultivated by him. Therefore, the allottees on evacuee lands do not seem to be worse off than the local persons enjoying *khatedari* rights."

[Shri Jaganatha Rao]

In the light of this reply given by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, it seems quite clear that in the eyes of the Ministry of Rehabilitation the status of the allottees was no worse than the status of the *khatedar* tenants. I am not concerned whether ownership rights are granted to them or not; if they pay, they will be granted. But the time has come when it should be made clear that every non-claimant agricultural allottee, when he does not pay the price for conferment of ownership rights, will enjoy at least the same rights as the *khatedars* under the Rajasthan Tenancy Act.

Now, a word with regard to the management of the acquired evacuee land. Since the acquisition of the evacuee properties by the Central Government under the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act of 1954, all power of administration vest in a managerial organisation of the Central Government. It is, however, a fact that the managerial organisation of the Central Government has not got the necessary staff to handle the administration of the land at the tehsil and village level. Therefore, it has become most essential now to see that the Rajasthan Government is permitted to continue to handle such land, and the necessary powers under section 34 of the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act of 1954 should be given to it. No delegation of power has been made despite the repeated requests from the State Government. There is one fear. If the powers are not delegated, it might result that the action taken by the local officers of the State Government might become *ultra vires* in relation to the administration of unallotted land, and might be questioned in a court of law. It is, however, surprising that in spite of the revenue officers of the State Government carrying on this administration even with the concurrence of the Ministry of Rehabilitation, there have been cases in which the officers of the

managerial organisation have challenged the validity of the action taken by the officers of the State Government. This parallel system of running the administration should be put an end to. I think the time has come when power should be given to them under section 34 so that the officers might carry on the administration; otherwise the local officers feel hesitant in carrying on the administration, because they do not want to lend themselves open to the allegations of illegalities or of unauthorised interference in this evacuee land. Therefore, the delegation of the powers should be made as soon as possible. While delegating these powers, the Ministry of Rehabilitation should also kindly see that the powers of the managing officers are given to the tehsildars, and the powers of the settlement officers be given to the collectors within their respective jurisdictions.

Lastly, I would say a word with regard to the question of the Meo *Biswadars*. As we know, with the adoption of the Rajasthan Zamindari and Biswedari Abolition Act of 1955, every *Bisweddar* has become entitled to receive compensation for the lands which were in his possession and which were in the possession of his tenants. I am just now referring to the cases of such Meo *Biswadars* who have not gone to Pakistan, but who are here since then in the same district. I am glad that they have been given either the original holding or alternate holdings, but what about the compensation for the lands which were in the occupation of the tenants at the time of the Partition, that is, in 1947? No Muslim or Meo *Bisweddar* can be divested of his right simply because the Partition of India had taken place. He cannot be put at a more disadvantageous position than that of a local *Bisweddar*. The Meo *Bisweddar* is entitled to receive compensation for the land in the occupation of the tenant, which is now under the cultivation or the occupation of

the allottee or the local pattedar. So far as the local pattedars are concerned, you may take the money from them. We have nothing to say about it. But from whom are the Meo Biswedars to receive the compensation? When we ask the State Government, they say that the land does not belong to them, and that it is under the occupation of the local pattedars or in the possession of the allottees so they cannot pay compensation. So far as the Central Ministry are concerned, they say that that is evacuee land and thus no compensation. I would submit that the issue cannot be just put off in this way. The Meo Biswedars are entitled to receive compensation, when he has not gone to Pakistan and when he has never left the district. He is entitled for compensation, just like other Biswedars. The Central Government and the State Government should sit together and finally decide as to the authority from which the Meo Biswedars are to receive compensation.

I hope that all these points would be taken into account by the hon. Minister.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव (हिमाचल):

जनाब, मैं आपकी इजाजत में एक मनाल पृच्छना चाहता हूँ आनरेबल मेम्बर साहब से, जो अभी बोल चुके हैं। वह राजस्थान में आते हैं, इसलिए उनका वहाँ की पोजीशन बेहतर मानूँ होंगा। जमींदारी एरानिशन एक्ट के मताविक बिम्बादारी खत्म हो चुकी है। बिम्बादारी हारमिन करने के लिए मिनिस्ट्री को पदर इन्स्टालमेंट देनी है। जिन लोगों का जमीन पर कब्जा है और जो पीप्राइटरी राइट्स चाहते हैं, उनके रुपये देने का फायदा क्या है, क्योंकि बिम्बादारी तो खत्म हो चुकी है।

उपायुक्त महोदय: यह मजान माननीय सदस्य में पृच्छना है, ताँ भलाहिदा उनमें पृच्छ जाँत्रिए। वह आपका बना देंगे।

Shri Jaganatha Rao (Koraput): I wish to confine myself to the working of the Dandakaranya Project. My

district of Koraput lies in this Dandakaranya area. The other day, on the 30th March, I visited the Umakote area of the district, and, therefore, I can speak with confidence and with a certain amount of authority.

Some hon. Members have condemned this project as a failure. They have said that it is a failure of the Ministry and it is a failure of the Minister. One hon. Member even suggested that the Minister should resign. I am sorry to say that that a correct state of affairs of the project is not depicted. No hon. Member who spoke in these terms had seen the area, the work that has been done etc., and, therefore, I wish to speak being in a position to rebut the allegations that have been made in this connection.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): That is always expected of the hon. Member.

Shri Jaganatha Rao: I could say so because I had been to that area on 30th March. I have seen the Umakote area. Six village sites have been formed. I visited three of them. I talked to the displaced persons there. I found them constructing their hutments. Some hutments have risen to the plinth level; some have laid the basement, and some other displaced persons have progressed further in the construction of houses. I talked to them, and they were anxious to know when they would be put in possession of the lands. None of the displaced persons that has been there is anxious to get out. Everyone of them is anxious to settle down. They are eager to get the lands; they are anxious to know when they would be given possession of the lands. I told them that they would be given possession of the lands not later than the end of this month. For, about 9,000 acres of land have been reclaimed, contour bunding is going on, and each family would be given seven acres of land, and the displaced families have to build their field bunds and make the land ready for cultivation. The monsoon will set in by the middle of June. Therefore:

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there is every possibility of every displaced family getting land, and they can proceed with the agricultural operations this year in right earnest. They were happy. Such of them as are there, and with whom I had a talk, were contented, and they were only anxious to get the lands so that they could settle down, because, for the last twelve or thirteen years, they have been leading the life of nomads, as they have been moving from place to place. Therefore, they are only too anxious and too glad to know that they have been settled on land, where there is every possibility of their getting the land, so that they may lead the rest of their lives in contentment.

This scheme has been condemned on the ground that there has been failure of the project, because so many families, which the hon. Minister said earlier would be taken, could not be taken there. But we lose sight of the fact that there are inherent difficulties that beset projects of this kind. This area is mainly a forest area. There is lack of communications, lack of man-power, machinery and so on. But all the difficulties have now been overcome, and we have turned the corner. The work is in progress. Only, it has to be accelerated, so that the families that are there in the various camps could be settled on the land before the monsoon sets in.

I am personally convinced, having gone there and seen the conditions myself, that there is every possibility of achieving the target this year. The displaced persons who are in work-centres are now put on work, excavation of tanks, renovation of tanks, sinking of wells, and road-work and so on. Therefore, they are getting every opportunity for work. Every adult member of the family is getting wages, and whatever deficit remains is made up by what is called the transitional allowance that is paid to the families. Therefore, there is no difficulty for their livelihood.

I have seen also some of the villagers carrying on some petty trade.

They go to a weekly 'hat' in a place called Navrangpur; they purchase vegetables and sell them in the colonies. Some of them are carrying on petty trade also. Some of them purchase fowl and sell them there. They are getting themselves accustomed to the conditions. It is said that these displaced persons should be put on work. Certainly, they are put on work, and they have even got a system called the group leader system. A group of displaced persons with a group leader are allowed to carry on some petty contracts in regard to earth-work and collection of metal.

In this connection, I would say that there is no need to bring in contractors for doing this work of metal collection or earth-work there from outside the area. I understand that one contractor from West Bengal has been asked to undertake a contract for the collection of metal for the road from Umarkote to Amraoti which is just 20 miles in length. I see no reason why the displaced persons and the local Adibasis should not be given this privilege and the benefit of this work.

Regarding health, measures are taken—several mobile units are in operation. In this connection, I wish to point out that the Chief Medical Officer of the Project, it seems, wanted some trained nurses, and the civil surgeon of Koraput had with him 20 trained *dayis* and he offered to give them, but the Chief Medical Officer of the Project would not take even ten or five of them. It seems he is awaiting the applications from the Employment Exchange at Calcutta. After all, the nurses need not know the language; after all, it is not the language of the nurses, that soothes the patient, but the healing touch of the nurse that gives relief to the patient. I do not see why these five or ten *dayis* who are available at Koraput readily should not be taken.

Another difficulty at the present moment in that area is that hospital

have not been constructed. There is just a small hospital at Umarkote with a six-bedded ward. The mobile units are getting these patients and dumping them in this hospital, and the local doctor is not able to cope up. I would suggest to the hon. Minister that till the hospitals are constructed according to the Plan, the existing hospital at Omerkote has to be expanded, the supply of medicine has to be increased, so that the doctor who is there can look after not only the displaced persons but also the local people for whom he is there.

Regarding engineering works, I have a word to say. The progress of engineering works is not very satisfactory. It is very slow. There are several building roads and bridges which have to be constructed, but are not being taken care of. I understand that the Chief Engineer there, I think Shri Bandopadhyaya, is not very co-operative, or is creating difficulties to solutions. I have a feeling that history may repeat itself. The conditions and difficulties that be set Mr. Fletcher are still there. I have a feeling that Mr. Johnson, the Administrator, may do the same way as Mr. Fletcher did unless they are set right. So I would request the hon. Minister to take note of the situation, go there and live there the whole of May and see that the work is proceeded with in right earnest, the families that are there are settled on land so that the scheme would be a success.

A word about the Adivasis. This is an integrated development scheme. The Adivasis are entitled to 25 per cent of the land. It is true as the Collector of Koraput told me that more than 1500 acres of land had been allotted for them. But mere giving of the land to Adivasis is not enough. They should be given the same facilities as DPs are given. They should also have huts or homesteads as are being given to DPs, so that there would be no discrimination and all live happily as members of one family.

In this connection, I would say that hon. Members from West Bengal in this House or elsewhere need not get worried. They can leave the care of these DPs in Dandakaranya to the local people who are prepared to share their joys and sorrows. The less interest others take in the DPs who are there, the more happy will the DPs be.

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): My State is very vitally interested in the progress of the Dandakaranya project. Coming to the demands of this Ministry, one feels that it is not merely a problem between the Government of West Bengal and the Ministry of Rehabilitation. It is not a problem between the East Bengal refugees and the Government of India. It is basically a national problem in its range and a human problem in its intensity. My only grievance is that this debate has, to a certain extent, been pulled down to a personal level. This could very well have been avoided, while considering issues of momentous sentimental, human and national importance.

The fact has to be remembered by all concerned that this misery-ridden, misguided, sometimes unguided, humanity whom we call refugees are the very foundations of our freedom. In their sweat and tears, in their sufferings and sacrifices our independence has been consecrated. Therefore, while considering their problems, one has to bring to bear upon these a sympathetic consideration and human kindness. We could have done well in avoiding personal references.

In this context of rehabilitating these displaced persons, the Dandakaranya Authority was conceived as late as 1956. Before I deal with the Authority itself, I would venture to submit that the way in which it was constituted, it was bound to be a failure. We have created an autonomous body wielding powers which no autonomous body in this country is wielding. It can sanction projects costing upto Rs. 40 lakhs without referring to the Minister, without

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referring to the Parliament. It could appoint incumbents to posts carrying Rs. 1500 per month—which the Minister does not know and the Ministry does not know. It could create posts carrying a maximum salary of Rs. 2000 per month. It had a special dispensation regarding purchases and placing of orders. I would like to know how this body could come to exist, a body which was a direct challenge even to the limited, truncated parliamentary control with which we are acquainted. No procedures were ever laid down. No rules of business were ever framed. Therefore, you find this body with Rs. 100 crores to go round entrusted to a number of officials who naturally worked at cross purposes. It is time that this body was disbanded and reconstituted on a statutory basis clearly delimiting its powers. We cannot allow a handful of officers, whatever be their integrity, being entrusted with a project costing Rs. 100 crores without anything clearly laid down.

Having come into existence, I could have even considered this Authority as desirable, had it conformed to the basic stipulations. Here I would repeat that the Ministry had pretty little control over this. It was programmed that 5,632 families would be sent between 1st November, 1959 and 31st March, 1960. But we have been able to send only 1,464 families consisting of 8,000 persons. We thought of land reclamation and so far 13,000 acres in Umerkot and 36,000 acres in Parlekot had been acquired. As against these, only 7,132 acres have been reclaimed, if I am to rely on the figures supplied by the Ministry figures about which I have my grave doubts. According to a note which was circulated in December, if I calculated the lands which had been reclaimed, it came to about 5,000 odd acres. In terms of another note that has been circulated in the month of March, it comes to 7.1% acres. Be

that as it may, even in the case of land reclamation, we will find that there has been a serious shortfall. For that, I believe the Members in charge of Agriculture and Engineering have to answer, as to why there has been this shortfall.

Coming to small scale industries, much has been said about it. The hon. Minister will agree that in the scheme of small scale industries, the *dhanki* still occupies the pride of place. With *dhankis* the Dandakaranya Authority is thinking of rehabilitating the refugees.

An hon. Member: What is *dhanki* ?

Shri Mahanty: *Dhanki* is the thing with which they pound rice.

I venture to submit that there has been a failure in the discharge of responsibility. I am sure the failure is not so much on the part of the Ministry as on the Dandakaranya Project authorities. It is time enough all these gentlemen were shown their proper place and met with a little imagination, with drive and a little more sympathy and sense of responsibility were put there.

Why do I say this? It is because, as I said in my preface, it is not an administrative problem. It is basically a human problem. How has that human problem been tackled? I have got an annexure before me which gives details about construction and building works in progress under the engineering units in the project. The total estimated cost of these works is Rs. 87,24,000. Most of this money is for residential accommodation for officials at Jagdailpur and Koraput for staff on working centre etc. On the other hand, what is the provision for the people, those who are going there for settlement? They are living in conditions which are little short of primitive.

The time at my disposal is short. So I am not going to dilate on it. Otherwise, I could have told you

what sort of exploitation has been going on in Danakaranya. A match box costing 6 nP was sold for 12 nP. One refugee was exploiting the other. It has been said that work should be given to the group leaders. But do you know that contracts given to those group leaders meant the worst exploitation which most of the old type contractors could not imagine? I need not go into it. But I want once again to appeal to all concerned that it is time enough we eschew that kind of attitude towards this very fundamental and human problem.

I have a feeling that we have traded all these days in human misery. I can say that at least from my experience of the refugees that came for settlement and rehabilitation in my State. Instead of appealing to the inner urge and instead of appealing to the human dignity in them, there were people, men placed in responsible positions, who taught them how to cringe before administrations and how to beg money. This kind of attitude has been generated in them—no work, nothing, and living on doles. I may be forgiven if I say that it is not a fact that the East Bengal Refugees have not received a fair deal. They have received doles to the extent of Rs. 43.71 crores till March 1959. After having spent Rs. 41 crores on these doles, it was found out that 70 per cent were not eligible. I would beg of the House to consider who paid these Rs. 41 crores to these non-eligibles. It was, certainly, not Shri Mehr Chand Khanna. It was, somebody else. Let us not forget that the State Government of West Bengal has a direct responsibility in this matter and no kind of parochialism or pettifoggery is going to eliminate that responsibility and the country would like to know who was responsible for these Rs. 41 crores being paid to men who were not refugees. Dr. B. C. Roy has a case to answer and I am sure he has courage enough to answer this charge.

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Grants were paid to the East Bengal refugees to the extent of Rs. 19.28 crores and loans to the extent of Rs. 47.3 crores, which is again going to be commuted to grants, for, these loans are not going to be realised (*Interruption*). I would like know how much has gone to the men who are genuine refugees. Therefore, let us not try to trade in human miseries and try to find scapegoats to hide our own acts of commission and omission.

Then, I would say that as far as these refugees are concerned none could be dearer than they to us. But let them not try to think that these 80,000 sq. miles of land in Danakaranya carved out of Andhra, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are going to be the exclusive preserve of the displaced persons from East Bengal.

An Hon. Member: Nobody wants that.

Shri Mahanty: It has been said that nobody wants that. But if you want milkmen, if you want rubble collectors all from Bengal, then, are you going to make us refugees. The fact has to be remembered that we are releasing 149,000 acres of arable land and large forest wealth is also coming under it. If we will have nothing to do with that and if all the jobs should go to you and all the services should go to you and even opportunities for developing are to be given to you, I beg to differ.

I would conclude with this. The fate of this Ministry is hanging in the balance. It is time that this Parliament gives consideration to the employees of the Ministry. Sometime back the Speaker had said that some steps should be taken whereby these employees are absorbed in the various departments of Government. But I am told that there is a sort of a caste system which has come into play in the meantime; because they come from a lower rank hence they could not be admitted into the portals of the Secretariat. It is a very bad

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attitude. The Parliament and the Cabinet should consider how best to absorb them.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarbadi (Ludhiana): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am glad that I have another opportunity to speak on the western wing of the Ministry of Rehabilitation. When I was speaking last year I said that despite all the efforts of the hon. Minister and his Ministry to liquidate the western wing, it would be difficult for him to do so, for, the problem is so colossal and huge that it would not be easily solved. I would repeat the request I made on the last occasion that it would be in the fitness of things that a committee be appointed to go into and assess the achievements of the western wing of the Rehabilitation Ministry, and see where the things are left. At that time the hon. Minister was pleased to state that he had sent letters to his colleagues, the State Ministers and that he would be holding a meeting at Srinagar thereafter. I hope he would have come to the conclusion that really there are some features of rehabilitation which are left undone.

I would also like to know what has been the opinion about the liquidation of the Ministry from the side of the State Ministers and what has been the opinion of the Regional Settlement Commissioners on this issue whether the Ministry can be so easily liquidated.

Leaving that aside, from the figures that have been given in the report I find that out of 4.85 lakhs displaced persons who have filed compensation applications up to the end of December 1959, over 4.44 lakh claimants were paid compensation amounting to Rs. 126.84 crores. I believe that this figure of 4.4 lakhs includes those also who have been given a statement of claims. If that is so—and I believe that is correct—because simultaneously with this I find this.

"The break-up of this amount is Rs. 56.20 crores in cash, Rs. 50.53 crores by transfer of properties."

If out of the evacuee pool of Rs. 100 crores, Rs. 50.53 crores have been transferred, this clearly indicates that nearly Rs. 50 crores—or Rs. 49.47 crores still remain. So, it is inconceivable that there are only 36,000 applications that remain to be satisfied, while half the pool of the evacuee property of Rs. 100 crores still awaits transfer to the claimants and others. Therefore, I submit that the figures that are given are not absolutely correct; they are rather misleading and the problem still remains.

On this I will only submit the case of Delhi as an illustration. Here I find that out of a total of 89,000 applications for compensation, so far, 14,000 remain absolutely untouched. Nearly 15,000 others have been given statement of accounts. It means that, as you would appreciate, the real work starts after the finalisation of the accounts particularly in the light of the policy of the Rehabilitation Ministry that the Regional Settlement Commissioners have to allot the property in view of the statement of claims if the claimants do not themselves come for purchase of the evacuee property. Therefore, the real work would start only now. In the case of Delhi, out of 89,000 compensation applications, 14,000 yet remain absolutely untouched; in the case of 15,000 only statement of accounts have been given and in the case of another 10,000, they have been partly satisfied and 50,000 have been fully dealt with. Does it not show that only half the work has been done and half still remains? I will not dilate on this point because my time is short and I will come to some other points.

Another point which attracts my attention is this that if the hon. Minister wants to have the Ministry liquidated he should do it calmly. Where he has done so much for the refugees

he should continue and hasty steps should not be taken.

I am grateful to the hon. Minister for the report in which he says that the refugees outside Punjab would also be conferred permanent rights. That is a very good achievement and I congratulate him on that.

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In this connection, I would draw your attention to one thing. At the time of Partition and subsequent to it, about 47 lakhs of people came from West Pakistan as refugees. They went throughout the country and spread themselves. Many of the people went away to UP and a very large number of people are settled there, on their own initiative, energy and stamina. They have been able to rehabilitate themselves to some extent. In one case, about 20,000 families were involved. Some of them belonged to your district in West Pakistan—your former district in West Pakistan. You were kind enough—as you always are—to take up the just cause of these 20,000 families. They settled themselves in the Naini Tal, Pilibhit, Bijnor and Rampur districts of U.P. They went as refugees. They occupied the Government *bhanjar* lands. I am not supporting those rare cases though, who took forcible possession of lands. But a very large number of the displaced persons took up the *bhanjar* lands and reclaimed it, investing a lot of money and rehabilitated themselves and increased the production of the country and of the State. Now, under an Act passed by the U.P. Government, the U.P. Public Lands (Eviction and Damages) Act of 1950, they are being ousted. I am glad that you had been pleased to take up the noble cause as you always do. But the reply that was given to you by Dr. Sampurnanand, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, was the most disappointing. When he replied he referred to them and equated the Jat Sikhs, Kamboh Sikhs, Rai Sikhs as criminal tribes. This is besides the

main point I want to deal with, and leaving that aside, there are three issues which need consideration and arise pertinently.

These persons are displaced persons and they have been in possession of the Government lands for the last 12 years. They spent huge sums and reclaimed and improved the lands and thus contributed to the welfare of the State. It is the policy of the Rehabilitation Ministry to regularise such possession. But why is an exception being made in this case? In this connection, I am glad to say that an hon. Member from Naini Tal, Shri Pande, had seen the Minister also in 1956 and he was given an assurance that it would be regularised.

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

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: I have taken seven minutes and I shall take a little more.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have rung the Bell after eight minutes.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: I will try to be as brief as possible and the hon. Minister will allow me a little trespass in his time.

Now, that is the first issue. The second is the country's one. The refugees have spread themselves throughout the country. These people are landless. They never sought, nor were they given any Government help. They themselves reclaimed the land. They are also landless people. But why in their case an exception is being made and they are being shunted out?

The third issue is this. The refugee problem is not a State problem; it is an all-India problem and it has been dealt with in that manner. Why should the U.P. Government make a discrimination between their landless people and the landless people

[Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi]

going there from this side? Dr. Sampurnanand says that the Punjab Government should deal with this problem. I am afraid he is very much mistaken. If we want emotional integration of the country and the oneness and the integrity of the country to be strengthened, there should be no discrimination of this kind. I hope the hon. Minister would deal with it and see that these people who are thrown on the road would not again be displaced by their own country.

Now, I would draw the particular attention of the hon. Minister to the application of rule 65. He is aware of the decision of the High Courts of Bombay and Rajasthan. There are about 5,500 applications lying from the people who had non-substantial houses. I have received many letters from the people that these applicants are not given any grants.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He should now conclude.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Two minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No two minutes.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: In that case, I endorse the remarks of the hon. speakers who have espoused the cause of the 8,000 employees of the Rehabilitation Ministry who are to be turned out. The hon. Minister should take up with the Home Ministry the policy of no further recruitment by the Ministries and see that these people are absorbed. Similarly, I also plead for the Faridabad people where the valuation of the house was originally put at Rs. 18,000 and the valuation has now gone up to about Rs. 43,000. The interest and other charges have been accumulated. I hope that these points will be taken into consideration by the hon. Minister. With these words, I commend and support the Demands of this Ministry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Banerjee may have a few minutes.

Shri S. M. Banerjee. (Kanpur): Ten minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is very difficult.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, I shall confine my speech to my two cut motions: one relating to the failure of the Ministry in Dandakaranya and the second about the absorption of the retrenched employees. You remember that an adjournment motion was moved in this House and I pleaded that 200-300 employees were likely to be retrenched on 29th February, 1960. As far as my knowledge goes, about 300 have already been retrenched and with the winding up of the Ministry, about 7,000 people would be retrenched. Apart from the non-gazetted staff and the lower and the upper division clerks, the settlement organisation comprises 280 gazetted officers. 40 are class I and 240 are class II. With the best of efforts only 87 or 90 lower division clerks have been absorbed under the Defence Ministry. The Defence Ministry was kind enough to interview more people and they wanted to absorb about 180 employees. But even today they have not been able to take even 100. It is time that the hon. Minister considered whether there was work for them in the Ministry or not. I am subject to correction but if the figures I quote are correct, there is enough work and these people can be retained for another month or for about six months more till they find alternative employment.

The summary of the work relating to evacuee property, etc. is here. The total number of saleable properties comes to 5865 in Delhi of which 1992 still remain untouched. Of the 5136 allottable properties, 2559 remain untouched. Of the 1476 located in predominantly Muslim localities, still 1382 remain untouched. 1900 are still non-evaluated and 2097, unacquired. 9930 cases of evacuee properties remain untouched out of a total of 16,464.

I want to impress upon the Minister by these figures that there is considerable work and retention of these employees may be possible. I would request him to consider whether the notice period can be extended and whether these men could be absorbed in the various Ministries. The hon. Speaker of this House was kind enough to form a committee and one meeting was held under the chairmanship of my hon. friend, Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi. It passed a resolution and recommended unanimously to the Home Minister that there should be no ban in employing persons from the attached offices in other superior offices of the Secretariat. We should like to know what the hon. Minister has been doing or is doing to absorb these men.

A lot has been said about the Dandakaranya scheme. What was the aim of that scheme? The manner in which the official activities are conducted in Dandakaranya leads to large-scale wastage of funds. The hon. Minister or his Deputy may say that I have not been to Dandakaranya. Last time when I spoke, I said my fear was only that this Dandakaranya project might not be added as another scandal to the series of scandals or chains of scandals.

Sir, in Dandakaranya funds have been misused. It is a question of extravagance. My information is that a sum to the tune of Rs. 70 lakhs to Rs. 80 lakhs has been misused. I was rudely shocked to read the newspaper report on the statement given by one social worker, an ex-revolutionary gentleman, Mr. Sushil Kumar Banerjee. He has written to the Prime Minister thrice. He wanted a reply from the Prime Minister. He is ready to place all facts before the Prime Minister and discuss this question of Dandakaranya.

Sir, I want only to mention this. It is high time for the hon. Minister to think whether it is better for him to resign gracefully and peacefully, because a time may come when peo-

ple may force his resignation. With all my respects for the hon. Minister, for the Herculean job he has done to settle down those displaced persons, I would only submit that this Dandakaranya project is nothing but a bundle of failures.

The ex-Finance Minister had to resign from his post because he was said to be involved in a transaction of Rs. 1,25,00,000. Here is going to be a transaction or a project worth Rs. 10 crores—ultimately it going to cost Rs. 100 crores. Therefore, it is high time that he resigns. After all, he has served the displaced persons. It is a question of unemployment. I know unemployment is a very bad thing, but I am sure with the present Prime Minister in the country he is going to be employed. I feel it is high time that there should be resignation of the hon. Minister. I am not against him. He has done no harm to me.

What happened in Bengal? Is he going to answer those charges made by various representatives of various parties in the West Bengal Assembly? He has returned from Calcutta and he says: "We have patched up everything, everything is good." He wanted to play between Shri P. C. Sen and Dr. B. C. Roy. He wanted to play between the Opposition and the Congress. He wanted to gather support from some group or many groups. Unfortunately, he has miserably failed, and it is high time he resigns. If Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri could resign because of a few accidents, if Shri Ajit Prasad Jain could resign so gracefully because he could not solve the food problem or he thought it should be handed over to the other Minister, why should he stick to these things? I do not know. Let him resign. Let him resign and establish that he has done a good job. Again we will pass a resolution, pass a vote of thanks and ask him to continue as Minister. He has miserably failed. He has failed in both ways. Sir, this is my honest submission, rather a brotherly advice to the hon.

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Minister, that he should resign gracefully and peacefully.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We have already exceeded the time. If Shri Braj Raj Singh insists on having some time, he may speak for five minutes.

श्री ब्रज राज सिंह (फ़िरोज़ाबाद) :

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं दाँ बतों कहना चाहता हूँ। पहली बात तो यह है कि पुनर्वास मंत्रालय के खाते पर इसके जो कर्मचारी बेकार होने वाले हैं, उनके बारे में सरकार को गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार करना चाहिए। अगर यह स्थिति होती कि उनके लिए कहीं कोई स्थान न होता, तो सम्भवतः इतनी चिन्ता की बात नहीं थी। लेकिन हम सुनते हैं कि रेलवे मंत्रालय दस पंद्रह हजार आदमियों को श्रमी भर्ती करने वाला है। इस मंत्रालय में इन लोगों की सेवायें खत्म हो रही हैं और रेलवे मंत्रालय नई भर्ती करने वाला है। यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आती। पिछले दिनों प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने यह बात कही थी कि हमारे मंत्रालय भ्रमण भ्रमण साम्राज्य बन गए हैं, भ्रमण-भ्रमण एम्पायर बन गए हैं। यह कितने आश्चर्य की बात है कि इन मंत्रालयों में इस तरह की दीवारें हैं कि एक मंत्रालय के कर्मचारी दूसरे में नहीं जा सकते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि पूरा मंत्रिमंडल इस प्रश्न पर गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार करेगा और इस मंत्रालय के जो कर्मचारी बेकार हो रहे हैं, उनको रेलवे मंत्रालय में या रक्षा मंत्रालय में, जहाँ भी जगह है, जरूर जगह दिलवाई जायेगी।

दूसरी बात मैं दण्डकारण्य अध्यापिका के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूँ। ऐसा लगता है कि दण्डकारण्य अध्यापिका खुद ही एक साम्राज्य बन गई है। उस अध्यापिका के निर्माण के बारे में पार्लियामेंट को पता नहीं है और उसके बारे में मंत्रिमंडल का कोई निश्चय नहीं है। कहा जाता है कि प्लानिंग कमीशन बनाया गया, उसके लिए मंत्रिमंडल ने निश्चय कर

लिया। वह पार्लियामेंट में आया नहीं और प्लानिंग कमीशन बना दिया गया, जो कि एक सुपर-कैबिनेट की तरह काम करता है। उस से भी आगे बढ़ कर दण्डकारण्य अध्यापिका के बारे में कोई रजोल्यूशन भी नहीं है। चालीस लाख रुपये तक के वह काम कर सकता है, दो हजार रुपये तक तन्स्वाह के नौकरों को वह भर्ती कर सकता है और मिनिस्टर्स को उस के बारे में पता तक नहीं। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि इस तरह की अध्यापिका बना दी गई है, जिसे श्रमी हजार वर्गमील क्षेत्रफल का विकास करना है, लेकिन उस के लिये कोई कानून नहीं है। मिनिस्टर साहब ने इस बारे में जो अन्तिम नोट संकुलेंट किया है, उस में बताया गया है कि इस अध्यापिका के ग्यारह वर्ग मील में १०१ ट्रेक्टर काम कर रहे हैं। जब से यह अध्यापिका बनी है, ये ट्रेक्टर काम कर रहे हैं। इस का अर्थ यह है कि १०१ ट्रेक्टर ७,१३२ एकड़ जमीन को तोड़ने में लगे रहे हैं। अगर हम हिसाब लगायें कि एक ट्रेक्टर ने कितनी जमीन तोड़ी है, तो हम पाते हैं कि सत्तर एकड़ जमीन एक ट्रेक्टर ने तोड़ी है और वह १६५६ से ले कर ३१ मार्च, १९६० तक तोड़ी है। मैं नहीं समझता कि हिन्दुस्तान इस तरह की फिजूलखर्ची के लिये तैयार है। हमारा मुल्क गरीब है। इस में अगर तीन, साढ़े तीन साल में एक ट्रेक्टर सिर्फ सत्तर एकड़ जमीन को तोड़ेगा, तो क्या होगा? हम अपने मुल्क में करोड़ों एकड़ जमीन को तोड़ने का प्रोग्राम बनाना चाहते हैं। दण्डकारण्य में हम जो कुछ कर पाये हैं, उस से उस प्रोग्राम को बड़ी टेस लगेगी। अगर इसी परफॉर्मन्स से देखना है, तो न तो ट्रेक्टर से कुछ काम हो सकेगा और न बुलडोजर से कुछ काम हो सकेगा। दण्डकारण्य अध्यापिका की यह असफलता, हमारे देश में जो जमीन पड़ी हुई है, जिस में खेती हो सकती है और जहाँ खेती नहीं हो रही है, उस के सदर्भ में भविष्य में हमारे देश के लिये कलंक बन जायेगी। आज समय आ गया है कि दण्डकारण्य अध्यापिका

की वर्तमान शकल को खत्म कर देना चाहिये । हम रोज देखते हैं कि फलैचर साहब और दूसरे अधिकारियों में मतभेद है । अब कहा जाता है कि श्री जानसन और दूसरे अधिकारियों में मतभेद हो सकता है । इस प्रकार के मतभेद से वहां काम में बड़ी रुकावट आती है । मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यह अयारिटी हिन्दुस्तान की गरीब जनता के पैसे से बनाई गई है । यह एक असह्य स्थिति है कि कुछ अफसर आपस के मतभेद को ले कर झगड़े करते रहें और वहां पर कोई काम न हो । समय आ गया है कि इस अयारिटी का काम ऐसे पब्लिक वर्कर को दिया जाये, जो इस काम को अच्छी तरह करे, बिना किसी पैसे के करे और वहां पर जो धन व्यय किया जा रहा है, उस को उस क्षेत्र के विकास और शरणार्थियों के पुनर्स्थापन में लगाया जाये । जो करोड़ों रुपये लगाये जा रहे हैं, उन से कोई काम नहीं हो रहा है । वहां पर जो डिस्प्लेस्ड फमिलीज गई हैं, उन में से हर एक फमिली को सात एकड़ जमीन देने का विचार किया जा रहा है । मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि उस का कोई प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है । वह सरकार नहीं दे सकेगी । ७,१३२ एकड़ जमीन में से १,७६० एकड़ आदिवासियों के लिये है । उन को कितनी जमीन देंगे ? यह अफसोस की बात है कि यह तय किया गया था कि बंगाल से ५,६३२ फमिलीज दण्डकारण्य जायेंगी और जाती हैं सिर्फ १,४६४ फमिलीज । ऐसा क्यों होता है ? कौन इसका जिम्मेदार है ? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसके लिए पुनर्वास मंत्रालय जिम्मेदार है या पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार जिम्मेदार है, पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार और केन्द्रीय सरकार में कोई झगडा हो रहा है, या पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार और उड़ीसा सरकार में कोई झगडा हो रहा है । इस तरह की बात देश के विकास में बाधक होगी ।

इस नोट में कहा गया है कि वहां के कर्मचारियों में कुछ परसेटिंग बंगालियों का है

मैं नहीं समझता कि यह भावना क्यों पैदा की जा रही है कि इतने बंगाली हैं और इतने नान-बंगाली हैं । मैं नहीं जानता कि मिनिस्टर महोदय यह बात सफाई में कह रहे हैं या किसी और कारण से । अगर इस तरह का क्लेम किया जाता है कि दण्डकारण्य में सब बंगाली होंगे, तो देश के भविष्य के लिए यह बात बहुत खतरनाक होगी । यह नहीं होनी चाहिए । जो क्षेत्र खासकर आदिवासियों के लिए है, जहां आदिवासी बसे हुए हैं, हमारा सबसे पहला कर्तव्य यह है कि हमें देखना चाहिए कि उन के हितों की रक्षा होती है या नहीं । मैं समझता हूँ कि इस विषय में कुछ नहीं किया जा रहा है । मैं समझता हूँ कि समय आ गया है कि दण्डकारण्य अयारिटी को समाप्त किया जाये और किसी दूसरे तरीके से इस क्षेत्र का विकास किया जाये और पूर्वी बंगाल के विस्थापितों का पुनर्स्थापन वहां पर किया जाये ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister.

Shri M. C. Jain (Kaithal): Sir, a few minutes may be given to me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am very sorry. I have already trespassed into the other Ministry's time.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have listened to the speeches since last evening with great attention and respect. Certain observations have been made about me and I do not want to go into them. It has also been imputed that possibly there are vital differences between the policies that are being pursued by the Government of India and the State Governments. I only wish to say that as far as I am personally concerned, for the last 12 years I have been associated with this Ministry, either as an adviser or as a Minister, and leaving aside Shri Jawaharlal Nehru whose association with the External Affairs Ministry may be longer, I do not think there is anybody else in any other Ministry

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who has been associated with a Ministry for such a long time.

From the very first day that I joined this Ministry it has been my honest endeavour to see that the unfortunate persons—I am glad Shri Mahanty paid a very high tribute to them—who are the victims of partition, who sacrificed their all in the cause of the independence of the country were rehabilitated, and to see whether I can honestly and conscientiously render any service to them. A Minister, whether he lives in office or he goes out of office, is not very material. It is the policy that the Government pursues or a Minister pursues which has to be either accepted or rejected.

There was a time when we started in very humble surroundings and in very humble beginnings in the Ministry of Rehabilitation about ten to 12 years ago. We have achieved great heights. Perhaps it may be correct that our performance in the eastern region has not been so good as in the western region, whatever the reasons may be. But we have to see whether the Government, which is in charge of the country today, has spared any efforts, any pains or any funds to tackle the problem which is considered human. I have never gone into narrow limits. Whenever I had an opportunity of consulting either a Member of this House, of this party, or that party, I have done so willingly and cheerfully because the intention throughout has been to see that the human suffering is alleviated and the problem solved in the shortest possible period.

Human sacrifice cannot be measured in terms of money. So, I do not want to say that this Government has spent so far Rs. 350 crores on the relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons from Pakistan. It may be a big sum of money in the context of our loans, our borrowings, our poor

economic conditions and so on, but taking into consideration all that these refugees had to suffer and experience, I am prepared to say that as a refugee myself, that I wish we could have done a little more. But one thing has to be remembered. What I wish to place before this hon. House is this. Schemes are not formulated by the Government of India; schemes are formulated by the State Governments. Schemes are implemented by the State Governments. Our duty is to make funds available.

May I tell the hon. House that as far as the eastern region is concerned, 100 per cent of the funds, whether by way of relief or loans, are made available by the Government of India. 100 per cent losses are borne by the Government of India. Whether the expenditure is infructuous, whether a particular scheme fails in a particular State, whether the loans are given through touts or whether the loans are given in dribbles, the ultimate responsibility for bearing the losses is that of the Government of India, and the ultimate responsibility of the unfortunate Minister of Rehabilitation is to face the Parliament, face the audit and to face the Public Accounts Committee. I do not shirk that responsibility. What I am trying to place before this House is that the Minister, however mighty he may be, under the Constitution, and though he provides 100 per cent of the funds, he can go only up to a limit and no further.

Let me take the eastern problem first. Today, in the eastern region, in which I include Orissa, Bihar, Tripura, Assam and West Bengal, the total refugee population is 40·81 lakhs. In Orissa, the total refugee population is only 12,000. Two or three years ago we set up a camp there by the name Charbatia. There were 6,000 persons in the camp and it was closed a few months ago. We have no camp now in Orissa. We have spent Rs. 2·58 crores on the rehabilitation and relief of these 12,000 persons in that State.

No loans or grants have been grudged. If you ask me to give you a loan in any particular camp either in Orissa or West Bengal—whether it is my good friend Shri H. N. Mukerjee or my good friend Shri Bimal Ghose—I say that I have not got the right to give a loan to a single person. We made allocations to the extent of Rs. 2.58 crores for the rehabilitation of only 12,000 persons.

Then I had the residuary problem assessed only a month or two ago in consultation with the State Government, and we have been told that the residuary problem would be somewhere in the vicinity of Rs. 18 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs. We are making that sum available to the State Government. What we have told the State Government is: "Here is your existing problem; here is your residuary problem. You have no camps in the State. Take the money and accept full responsibility as far as the rehabilitation department in your own State is concerned".

I next take Bihar. The number of displaced persons in Bihar is 66,000. 28,000 of them were in the Bettiah camp. Today the number is only about 150 to 200 families, or roughly about 1,000 to 1,500 persons. All of them have been rehabilitated. We have spent up till now Rs. 6.10 crores in Bihar. I am not shirking my responsibility in Bihar either.

About a month ago I went to Bihar and saw my colleague, the Rehabilitation Minister there, and I asked him: "Will you please tell me what is your residuary problem? Put it down on paper and then give me your time factor. Take the money. After all, this department has gone on for 12 years and if you have no more camps in the State, adequate funds have been given to you already and please tell me what is your residuary problem." I have been told that an estimate will be given to me within the next two months. When the estimates have been given to me and when the money is made available to

the State Government, I feel that I have hardly anything to do in the State, because, as I said, the rehabilitation of an individual family, the acquisition of lands, the grant of loans, etc., are done by the State Governments and not by the Government of India.

Next I come to Tripura. The number is 3,74,000. The camp population was 43,000, now nil. All the camps in Tripura were closed a few months ago, maybe 10 months ago. We have spent Rs. 12.77 crores in that area. My position is the same whether it is Tripura, Bihar or any other State. We are assessing the residuary problem and that should be done within the next month or two.

I come to Assam. There have not been any camps for a very long time. The total population is 4,87,000. Expenditure Rs. 10.20 crores. I sent my Secretary to Shillong only last month for consultation with the Chief Minister. In all these cases, Chief Ministers have been consulted. The Chief Minister of a State—I will not name him, but certainly not West Bengal—told me that the department in his State should have been wound up 5 years ago. In Shillong, a meeting was held, the residuary problem was assessed and we are trying to convert it into money and time factor. So, the intention is not to run away from the problem. The intention is to come to grips with the problem. When once we know the size of the problem, the extent to which it has been resolved and the extent to which it remains to be resolved, then we convert it into money and time factor and resolve it in the shortest possible period.

If I may sum up all these States, the population comes to 9,39,000. The camp population in these States was 77,000. Barring a few hundred as I told you in Bihar, the rest have all been rehabilitated and the expenditure was round about Rs. 32 crores. Whether the residuary problem costs another Rs. 2 crores or Rs. 3 crores is not material. I honestly believe that

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where we can spend Rs. 350 crores—my budget for this year may be Rs. 20 crores or Rs. 30 crores—we should not grudge another few lakhs or crores. But we must see that every pie that this Parliament votes is spent in a manner that there is no wastage.

Now let me take West Bengal. I admit that during the last few months, Bengal has not taken very kindly to me. Bengal Press has been very critical of me. There must be something very materially wrong with me, because it is Khanna whose head is being asked for on a charger or whatever it is, but not his policy. I am yet to see in what precise manner my policy has been criticised in West Bengal. I would like to dilate on it a little with your permission.

In Bengal, the total number of persons is 31,42,000 today. The money spent is about Rs. 120 crores on the relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons in West Bengal. Today the number of camp inmates is about 1,10,000, though it was about 2½ lakhs last year or may be 18 months ago. There were 3 spurts in West Bengal. The first spurt was in the early stages round about 1948-49, when the percentage of the migrants as compared to the number of persons who sought admission in camps was only 7·8. In the second spurt which was round about 1950, it went up to 22·8 per cent. Of every four persons that came from East Pakistan, one went into the camp. But in 1955-56, the percentage rose to as high as 53.

I did not open a single camp in a State. Camps are opened by the State Governments and maintained by the State Governments. Admissions are made by the State Governments. I plead guilty in the case of Bettiah and Charbatia, because I sent persons there. But as regards West Bengal, the Government of India never opened a camp and it neither runs nor maintains any camp. Even for admissions, no permission is sought from the Government of India. As many as 8 lakh

persons have gone into camps in West Bengal out of 32 lakhs I have just mentioned. In the last phase, 53 per cent. of the migrants went inside the camps. That was the problem with which I was faced.

I have recently talked to opposition leaders. I do not want to name them. Leaders belonging to different groups in West Bengal came to see me. The question that arose was whether these persons can be rehabilitated within the State of West Bengal or they should be taken out of the State. As regards my colleague the Rehabilitation Minister there, he has told me categorically that every single agricultural family in the camp must be taken out of West Bengal, because "we have no room for them". I have been told that in relation to the agriculturists, these *bainanama* schemes should not be pursued, because no lands are available within the State.

Not even that. I am told—I am not a party to it; when I say 'I', I am referring to the Government of India—that as far back as June, 1954, a decision was taken that every refugee who came into West Bengal after June, 1954 shall not be rehabilitated within the State and he shall be taken outside the State. My friends, the opposition leaders—everyone of them—have condemned me. You must have heard them today, Sir, though indirectly they have expressed confidence in the Ministry, because they want the Rehabilitation Ministry to be continued. Everybody, including Pandit Thakurdasji, Lala Achint Ram and others—they do not like me, but they want the Ministry to continue. I feel the West Bengal Assembly, where different interests are represented, passed a unanimous resolution that this Ministry should not be wound up. I do not want to take credit for that, but so far as the Ministry of Rehabilitation is concerned, there are no two opinions. The opposition leaders came to me and categorically stated that they do not accept the statement of

Shri P. C. Sen, who still maintains that there are no lands in West Bengal.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: One of the opposition leaders, Shri Propulla Chandra Ghosh, a leader of the P.S.P. group has categorically stated in the Assembly that there is no land for the refugees in West Bengal. The proceedings are with me and the Minister may look into them if he likes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Minister is speaking about leaders who met him and talked to him; not the others.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: The Minister should not make any exception.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Minister must be allowed to go on. He must have an opportunity.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: If it will not be improper, I am going to quote my hon. friend, Shri Jyoti Basu who still maintains that there are enough lands available.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: What about Shri P. C. Ghosh?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. When the hon. Minister is talking of one person he should not be interrupted like this.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: May I ask whether the Minister holds the same opinion?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is giving the opinions of the leaders.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: I should like to know his opinion.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I will give my opinion very frankly. Dr. Suresh Banerjee came to me and he insisted that lands were available in West Bengal. I told him, and I repeat that, as far as I am personally concerned, or the Government of India is concerned, whether a displaced person is rehabilitated within the Dandakaranya, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh

or any other place, the money has to be found by the Government of India to the extent of hundred per cent. The losses are hundred per cent. that of the Government of India. So, to me it is not material whether a displaced person is rehabilitated within the State of West Bengal or he is taken outside West Bengal.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: What does Shri P. C. Ghosh say?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: So, I told him that this is not a matter for me to decide; this is a matter for the State Government to decide. And if my colleague the Rehabilitation Minister of West Bengal holds and maintains that there are no lands available in West Bengal (Shrimati Renuka Ray: There are) I feel that Bengal has reached the saturation point. It reached the saturation point long ago.

I wish to place only one thing before the hon. House, and that is this, that I do not want the Government of India to be accused of this fact that we are dragging people out of West Bengal, we are taking them out of West Bengal by force. My position today very clearly is that if these gentlemen can be rehabilitated within the State of West Bengal, then it is for the Government of West Bengal to formulate schemes and tell me the money that is required to rehabilitate them plus the period in which the whole problem of rehabilitation can be phased out. Let me be more clear. For example, we have today 25,000 agriculturist families in West Bengal and it is stated that 10,000 families can be rehabilitated within the State. The Bainanama scheme costs Rs. 3,000 to 4,000 per family. So, multiply 10,000 with 4,000 and whatever the amount is, Rs. 14 crores or whatever it is, take Rs. 14 crores. I do not formulate any scheme in any State.

Then, for example, you say that these 10,000 families can be rehabilitated over a period of one year, meaning thereby that 1,000 families can

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be rehabilitated each month. Well, for this month take full doles for 10,000 families. For the next month take doles for 9,000 families, for the third month take doles for 8,000 families. That way, take the money and absolve us of the responsibility. But there must be a finality to the problem. The programme must be definite.

After all, these camp refugees have been there for the last 8—10 years. Rs. 55 crores have been spent up till now on their relief, which is a very big sum of money. I am not denying that. I am accused of dragging out displaced persons from camps.

May I tell you that when we started this screening two years ago there were 2,64,000 persons in camps? Joint committees of the Government of India officers and the State Government officers went from camp to camp, checked up all these families and out of these 2,64,000 persons only about 12,000 to 15,000 persons were found ineligible. The Government of India accepted the responsibility for the remaining 2,50,000 persons. Let me tell you here who were the persons whom we considered ineligible. There may be a camp superintendent working in a camp drawing his pay, though his family was drawing doles. There were persons who have been trained in the Transport Department, and had received full rehabilitation benefits. Still, they may be living in camps and drawing doles. I came across a case not very long ago—I would not name the colony or camp where I went—where there are about 400 families which have been living in that camp for the last three or four years. All these families are gainfully employed. There is a little dispute about the price of the land. The owner wants about Rs. 60,000. The State Government want to pay, I am told, about Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 35,000. There is also a writ in the High Court. During the last four years the Government of India had to pay Rs. 16 lakhs as doles in this camp. So, please pay Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 40,000 more if neces-

sary. Why not do it? If by giving Rs. 40,000 extra you can get the land why not you do it, especially when we have given in doles far more than that amount? Why not resolve the problem? So, my approach has been that as far as camp families are concerned, it is entirely for the State Government to decide whether they shall rehabilitate them within the State of West Bengal or they want them to be taken outside the State of West Bengal. As far as the Government of India is concerned, taking the cost of rehabilitation of one single family and the time factor required for relief, the whole amount can be examined and the money given to the State Government. Then the Government of India should have nothing to do with that matter any more.

Now, I come to Dandakaranya, where these families are to be taken. That is one of our important schemes. I have taken thousands of families to Uttar Pradesh. We have taken a very large number of families to Madhya Pradesh, Dharamjaigarh and Ambikapur. We have taken a large number of families to Rajasthan and also Betiab and Char Batia. For all my shortcomings I am sure that Shri Hiren Mukerjee will bear me out in one thing and that is that there are hardly any desertions either from these colonies or from these States, because one thing was taken care of, and that is this, that we have given to each family an economic holding and we have tried to create a community and cultural life for them.

Now, take Dandakaranya. My hon. friend, the last speaker, was very good at arithmetic. I failed once in arithmetic and so I hope the House will forgive me if my accounting is a little wrong. The Dandakaranya scheme was born on the 12th September 1958 with the resolution that was adopted by the Government of India, vesting very large powers on that authority. My hon. friend conveniently went to the year 1956. I took over such tractors of the Centra-

Tractor Organisation as were available. They had seen their life mostly. But the work had to be started and so these tractors were cannibalised. That is a technical phrase. You assemble all these things together and out of them you create something. That is called cannibalisation. We started work with these cannibalised old tractors of the CTO. Then I wanted more tractors, because these tractors like me are growing old.

An Hon. Member: Growing old?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Yes, whatever was the utility of Mehr Chand Khanna, that is more or less over. We wanted more tractors and we looked around whether we should go abroad towards the west or we should go abroad towards the east. I am no expert either on exchange, or on machinery or on finance.

Whatever little financial brain or responsibility I had was long before 1947. Since I have come to India I have never bothered about finances because my finances are looked after by the people who go into my monthly pay bill, make out a cheque and then payment is made. So I do not know much about these finances. Neither do I know much about my political rehabilitation because if by my remaining within the Congress Party I have become a Minister, I am certainly very grateful to the Party for the confidence that it has reposed in me. I do not want to go into my past. I do not want to tell anybody that before I became a refugee I also had some political position in my own province. But that is an old story and I do not want to go into that, because there are others who have sacrificed their lives. I am still living and am a minister—a Minister of a department in which bouquets are few and brickbats many.

But what I was saying was that you take Dandakaranya. Up till now my priority is the campers.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Why?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: If my hon. friends from West Bengal, if my hon. friend, Shri Guha....

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Why?

Shri C. D. Pande: Because they had to be rehabilitated.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: You take other people's houses. You take other people's land. You take other people's territory. You take other people's forests. You take other people's minerals. After all, I can persuade them to give me more but I cannot take it by force. So today my priority is rehabilitation of displaced persons who are in camps in West Bengal plus the Tribal population. If the State Government tomorrow decide that they want to take the displaced persons to Dandakaranya, then naturally the doors of Dandakaranya are open. The Madhya Pradesh Government, the Orissa Government and all my hon. friends who come from that territory have given me every possible co-operation, help and assistance.

What I am trying to place before the House is that in Dandakaranya, there is a basic concept of the scheme. The basic concept of the scheme is that we will build our own houses, we will build our own roads, we will build our own villages and with that development in construction programme the displaced persons will be associated, the middleman will be eliminated and for that we took a large number of displaced persons from West Bengal who were not even campers so that we could set up that contracts organisation there.

I am rather in a difficulty today. If I give this work to the outsiders, then the very concept of the scheme changes and I will be accused tomorrow of taking Punjab's from Bhilai or taking somebody from some other place. If my friends from West Bengal will not go there, the work cannot proceed. I admit and concede that till about four or six months ago, we were not in a very happy position so far as the Dandakaranya Project was concerned.

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I created something to which a reference was made by my hon. friend, Shri Mahanty, saying, "You build up a body like that, you give them power to sanction contracts up to Rs. 40 lakhs, you give them the power to make appointments up to Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 2,000, you also give them the dispensation, to go to the Director General of Supplies and place contracts direct and these conditions will be relaxed in your case, you can make purchases from anybody that you want and you can even give negotiated contracts." I did it with the best of motives and best of intentions. My idea was that even if I lose a little in Dandakaranya, two things were before me. One was the life that a camper was living in West Bengal and the other was this tremendous waste of relief expenditure of which I have just now told you, namely, that we have spent as much as Rs. 55 crores. Things went wrong though it was a big body with big powers. As the Minister, I accept full responsibility for all that has happened in Dandakaranya. I do not want to shirk that responsibility. Whether it is constitutional, legal or moral, I feel that I created that authority. I picked the men to run that authority. If anybody has failed, it was I. But that is past history.

During the last four, five or six months, I do not say that we have made spectacular progress, but what we have done is that we are now on the road to the implementation of the scheme. Unfortunately for me when the scheme failed, nobody bothered about it. Now that the scheme has started functioning and it is being implemented, I am being condemned for that.

Shri D. C. Sharma: How many miles of the road have been covered?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: May I tell you one thing? I have already extended an invitation to the Chief Minister of West Bengal along with his colleagues and the Secretaries to go with me to Dandakaranya and see

things for themselves. He is going with me on the 24th of this month. I have also invited.....

Shri M. C. Jain: Take Shri Sharma also with you.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have also invited hon. Members of all the parties in West Bengal Assembly, whether Communists, Congressmen, Praja Socialists, Forward Bloc or backward bloc. There are so many of them; about a dozen of them, I do not know. They are going there on the 2nd May. I will not stop there. I will take all the editors of the leading newspapers in West Bengal, including the *Amrit Bazar Patrika*, the *Statesman*....

Shrimati Renuka Ray: What about *Jugantar*?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:..... *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, *Jugantar*, *Hindusthan Standard* and my hon. friend, Shri C. K. Bhattacharya. I do not know the name of the paper but he is editing now one of our Congress papers in West Bengal. I will take him too. You all go and see things for yourselves.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: The invitation has not yet reached me at least.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am very sorry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This might be taken as the invitation.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: I thank you.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The other day I extended an invitation to the members of the Consultative Committee attached to my Ministry. I take this opportunity today to give an open invitation to every hon. Member of this House to come with me to Dandakaranya and see things for himself. I am not taking him there with a view to show what I have done. I only want him to go there and see what my fail-

ings are and what possible constructive suggestions he can offer so that I can benefit by hon. Members' experience, their guidance and also by my own mistakes. I want the Dandakaranya scheme to succeed. It is a national project. It is a project which is going to open up a vast area. It is a project which is in the interest of the people of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. It is my misfortune that the States in which I am operating know the potentiality of that project. Shri Jaganatha Rao was not so unkind in his criticism nor was Shri Mahanty.

An Hon. Member: He cannot be.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: But for whom I am going to lay the red carpet and the black durrie, taking them there myself and show them round. It is a national project. I have begged of the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. I was asked—and very pertinently asked—“Have we not got our own population in the State? Have we not got people in the State who are land-hungry? Do you think it is fair on your part that today you bring men from outside and we have no share whatsoever in the spoils of this exploitation which will be done at the expense of the Government of India hundred per cent.?” I appealed to them in the name of humanity, “These are my refugee brethren. I am bringing them there and you should do something for them”.

16 hrs.

One more question I was asked by the P.W.D. Minister of a particular State—I would not name the place. He said, “When you brought the people in my State and when we were allowed to develop lands, when we were allowed to develop roads, when we were allowed to build houses, why do you want to take over this work yourself? Is it to the detriment of the local population or is it that you want to give all the work to your friends from West Bengal?” I said, “Yes, I am prepared to accept that.”

Shrimati Renuka Ray: East Bengal refugees.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Let it be East Bengal refugees. I am talking of them. (*Interruption.*) It is between me and my old colleague.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: West Bengal people are not asking for new lands. It is the responsibility of India and the question of one State and another State does not come in here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: What I was saying was that the idea was to take displaced persons there and rehabilitate them. In Umar Koté—I am talking from memory—we are going to reclaim 20,000 acres of land and they are mostly in contiguous areas. In Paralkote, I am getting 30,000 or 35,000 acres of land out of which 15,000 or 20,000 acres will be reclaimed. That is all a contiguous area.

Then, Sir, we are going to have villages of 50 families each. We give them about 400 acres of land so that they can look after the land and command the land. When a village will be of 50 families it does not mean that other villages will be 50 miles away. These villages will be near to each other. But if it is said, “You take all the land in Madhya Pradesh or you take all the land in Orissa,” then it will be difficult. Last time, I was taken to task as to why I eliminated Andhra. We have taken certain forests and we have taken certain lands.

My hon. friend Shri Guha referred to the resolution passed in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. There are three or four operative parts of that resolution. About the life of my Ministry, that it should be kept for all times to come, I am grateful for that and I have nothing to say.

But one part of the resolution says that with a view to looking after the linguistic and cultural interests of the people who are taken there, this should be associated with the people who

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know their language. In my last Report on Dandakaranya, I have given the figures which are very interesting. Out of the staff that is there in Dandakaranya, the average percentage of the Bengalis is 44. But in departments like Education, Medical and other departments which have a direct bearing on the cultural life or the community life or the language of the people who have gone there, the percentage of the Bengalis is very overwhelming.

In the Medical department, out of 182 persons 140 are Bengalis including all the doctors. In the Education department, out of 54 persons 51 are Bengalis including all the teachers. In the Resettlement department, out of 132 persons, 97 are Bengalis. In the Transport organisation—about which an hon. Member spoke of—out of 318 posts 169 posts are filled by Bengalis.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: What about officers?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The percentage of the officers is fairly high. I cannot give the figures off-hand now. I gave the figures to the Chief Minister of Bengal not long ago. Tomorrow I will send the figures to the hon. Member. I have divided the figures into the categories of gazetted officers, the clerks and the chaprasis. Even there the average percentage is 44. But if you take the Bengalis from Orissa and you take the Bengalis from Madhya Pradesh because they are also Boses, Basus etc. then the average percentage will come to 46.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: As there are Khannas in Delhi also.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: What I was trying to say was this. About one thing I am clear in my mind and that is that these camps cannot be kept open indefinitely. The number of persons in camps today is 1,10,000. Each person costs us—including an

infant—Rs. 25 a month. I am not leaving out any eligible persons when we have paid them all these years. I am prepared to look after them. But I feel that there should be some kind of finality. Either they are rehabilitated within the State of West Bengal to the extent they can be rehabilitated or to the extent they cannot be rehabilitated, and to the extent that they cannot be rehabilitated there, there comes in my responsibility. I take them to Dandakaranya.

Now, in Dandakaranya there are four top executive officers. One is the Chief Administrator, one is the Member, Engineering, one is the Member, Finance and the other is the Member, Agriculture. Out of them one is Shri Bandopadhyaya. Unfortunately the health of the finance officer who has done a very good job of work during the last one year, has broken down and I am sending a Bengali officer by the name of Shri Sen Gupta who has been associated with my Ministry as the Financial Adviser in Calcutta. We are sending him there. So out of four top officers, two will be Bengalis.

I constituted a Committee with three Chief Ministers and myself to look into the problems of the Dandakaranya which may arise from day to day. The Chief Ministers are of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. We had our last meeting eight months ago and Dr. B. C. Roy told me that he would very much like that we should meet in Dandakaranya once in three months. I accepted his suggestion gladly. Dr. Roy is not only a great Chief Minister and a great leader but as far as I am personally concerned, I take my inspiration from him. I may have made mistakes here and there. I may have tripped here and there. But by and large in taking any major and important decision in regard to the rehabilitation of displaced persons in West Bengal, I have always consulted him. I told Dr. Roy that I want that committee to function.

Now, there is one thing more. In the Dandakaranaya Development Authority itself there are the Chief Secretaries of two States, that is, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, and they are to give me lands, to give me forests, to give me "O.Ks." in important matters and tie up all the loose-ends. I told Dr. Roy, "In any effective form or in any precise form that you want to be associated with the Dandakaranaya Development Authority, please let me know it because I want your blessings, I want your guidance and I want your full support in the implementation of the Dandakaranaya scheme." I would be repeating myself. I do hold and maintain that though it may be wrong on my part to lay targets but I feel that with a little bit of effort, as far as the campers in West Bengal are concerned, we can, even if we take 2000 families a month, within the next six, seven or eight months, that is, before the 31st December, ask these people either to go to Dandakaranaya or to remain within West Bengal for which the State Government should formulate schemes—they can take money to the extent of 100 per cent for relief and rehabilitation from us—or under the decision of July, 1958 which has been quoted so many times to which Dr. Roy, Shri Profulla Sen, Shri Ashok Sen, Shri Morarji Desai and Shri Khanna are a party, they can be dispersed after their taking six months' doles. I do not want the Ministry to be closed till the work has been completed. But I feel that once the work has been completed, there is no use of keeping this Ministry alive.

My hon. friend talked of the partially rehabilitated. I am all at one with them. This year, we have sanctioned 30,000 cases of the partially rehabilitated, and a sum of Rs. 3 crores has already been sanctioned for the State Government. What I want to know from my hon. friends from West Bengal, whether on this side or on the other is this. They should sit with me in Calcutta, firstly they should sit with the State Government,

and put down on paper what the residuary problem in West Bengal is. Have I not got the right to find out, till my secretariat is not wound up there as my hon. friend has suggested a little while ago what the residuary problem is, apart from the question of the campers? Let it be put down on paper, say, in terms of money how much we want, how we want it to be phased out and so on. If, then, I shirk my responsibility, certainly my hon. friend can have a legitimate grouse against me. But if I want to know how many are to be rehabilitated within the State, that is, campers, how many are to go outside, and what the extent of the residuary problem is, and if I do not get a definite reply, I certainly have a right to find out what the position is going to be.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: The reply was given many years back.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: My memory is very short, and that is my difficulty. I am dealing with the problem as it exists today. She had been my colleague, and I have great respect for her. When she spoke, I felt a little hurt that my own colleague with whom I had the privilege to work for three years told me nothing then, but suddenly today....

Shrimati Renuka Ray: On a point of personal explanation. It is true that I did not say anything for three years, because I hoped that in those three years, these problems would be dealt with. I found from the Ministry's report that the residuary problem would be tackled in one year's time, but I find that it has not been tackled; on the contrary, the whole problem has become much larger and is not being tackled.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If that was so, the complaint is justified then.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: She is my sister, just like a mother of the refugees in West Bengal; she give those children to my care, and I have been a bad father. I was only hoping that my sister would have told me, you have done this which is not pro-

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per, you have done that which is not proper, and in that case, I could have benefited from her experience and advice.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: I gave the figures then.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: A reference was made by hon. friend Shri H. N. Mukerjee to another point. I love his flowery language.

Shri C. D. Pande: He is a master in language.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: He speaks so beautifully, and sometimes, if it was not me, I would be carried away by all that he said; he speaks so beautifully well. But then when I read what he says I find very little of substance in it.

Anyhow, he made one or two remarks, which I feel, need a little explanation. He talked about the stipends to the students. He also made a reference to the unfortunate displaced persons suffering from TB. May I tell you that as far as the persons suffering from TB are concerned, we have about six thousand of them, about a thousand of them in camps, and about five thousand outside in West Bengal. Leaving aside about 600 beds, which we have reserved, and for which the Government of India are spending about Rs. 12 to 13 lakhs a year, to the TB patients who are in camps, we are paying them about Rs. 75 p.m. while those who are outside are paid Rs. 50 p.m. We received reports that quite a number of them who were receiving this assistance were not actually suffering from TB, or even if they were, their cases were arrested a long time ago, and they were no longer eligible for that assistance.

A team of officers, who were TB specialists was appointed by the Government of West Bengal, and I think Mr. P. K. Sen who is one of the famous TB specialists was one of them, the other person was Dr. Adhikari or some other doctor, I do not know. I do not know them personally. I was asked to give a grant of Rs. 3 lakhs for

the screening of each patient, at the rate of Rs. 50 per patient. A grant of Rs. 3 lakhs was given to the Government of West Bengal for the screening of these 6000 sufferers. We received reports not long ago, and those reports of the specialists of the Government of West Bengal indicated that 42 per cent of them were not eligible. I have not stopped the grant to anybody who is eligible, but if a doctor who is a specialist, and who is appointed by the Government of West Bengal themselves certifies that this person is not eligible to any assistance, what can I do? I have not stopped the TB assistance in one single case. In the case of the campers who have been screened, and whose doles have been stopped, I have categorically laid down and made a statement that if a hard case comes to the notice of the State Government, let it be brought to our notice, and we are prepared to reconsider it. Some three hundred or four hundred cases were sent to us, and their doles were restored.

About students who are in schools, receiving stipends and freeships, this thing started round about 1950. Every year we have been giving money since then. About two years ago, a conference was held in Darjeeling. My hon. friend Shrimati Renuka Ray was not there. She had by then left. In that conference, the four Rehabilitation Ministers of West Bengal were there—there are four Ministers for Rehabilitation there in West Bengal; I think, today they are three or two. I am not sure. They were all present. And a decision was taken that there should be a gradual cut of 20 per cent on the stipends that were being given, because, after all, ten or twelve years had elapsed by then. There may be a displaced person who may have come then, who may have joined a school or a college, but a man who has been in India for the last twelve years cannot certainly be called a migrant from Pakistan. Instead of stopping the grants at once—I think the grant then

was Rs. 70 to 80 lakhs a year we applied a 20 per cent cut. The first cut was applied last year that is 1958-59, and the second cut was applied this year, and the difference between the last cut and this cut is Rs. 14 lakhs on the basis of 20 per cent. Dr. Roy talked to me, and I have agreed, and I am sure my hon. friend opposite will be happy to know that we have taken a decision, and the decision is that in respect of all these persons who are reading either in a school or in a college, subject to the two tests laid down by the Government of West Bengal—one is called the means test, and the other is the merit test—we do not want that the education of any child, whether he is reading in a school or in a college, should be interrupted; and to the extent that money is required to complete his or her education, I shall make up the shortfall to the extent of Rs. 14 lakhs which would be the sum required. But from now onwards, there shall be no new admissions. If the problem has to be resolved and the stipends are to be given according to a certain policy or programme to those who are displaced, who came ten to twelve years ago, this problem cannot be a continuous problem. So this is our decision.

While summing up the problem of the East Bengal refugees—after that, I will deal with the West for five minutes with your indulgence; I know I have already taken more than the time given to me and you are looking at the clock—I would like to say that the policy that I am pursuing is a policy based on human considerations, a policy according to which the problem should be resolved within a definite period, whether within the State of West Bengal or outside. The problem must be assessed whether it relates to campers within the State or whether it relates to the partially rehabilitated, and physical targets fixed for its solution. About that, there can be no two opinions. Beyond that, I want nothing. When money is

required after the schemes had been examined and discussed even at the highest level, we shall see that the funds are made available to the State Governments, whether of Orissa or Bihar or West Bengal. But they should accept full responsibility for the implementation of those schemes and the resolution of the problem within a specified period.

As regards Dandakaranya, I want my hon. friends from this House, from West Bengal and from any other part, whether from the Upper House or Lower House to come with me and see things for themselves and tell me in what precise form they would like the scheme to be implemented, which should be in the best interests of both the displaced persons and the tribal population there. If the State Government of West Bengal wishes to be associated with the project, so far as I am personally concerned, I have told Dr. Roy; 'please tell me in what way you want to be associated. If your Chief Secretary goes there or you depute anybody else, at least tomorrow all the anonymous letters that are circulated and treated as gospel truth against me will not be believed; at least you will have someone there who should be in a position to keep you posted'.

I would beg of my Bengali friends concerning one thing. Some have been to see me. I won't name them. I have been asked; 'Please give a declaration that no non-Bengali shall ever be rehabilitated in this area'.

An Hon. Member: Absurd.

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not think that is correct.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: I object to that. That was not said.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am not talking about her.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This is very objectionable.

Shri Tangamani: He is making an insinuation.

An Hon. Member: Who are those persons?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: It is a continuous insinuation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members here should not think that this is being said of them alone. If the Minister feels and knows it as a fact, and he had that experience, and has disclosed it, why should we stop him?

Shri Bimal Ghose: A few people might have told him so. But taking Bengalis by and large, could he say this?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is not talking by and large of the Bengalis.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I would like to get your direction. The hon. Minister is answering a debate in the House. I should think that if he wants to make a generalised statement about what Bengal or Bengali representatives want in regard to a particular matter, it should be warranted by reference to what has been said in this House and not by reference to gossip which he has collected somewhere in the bazars which we might require. The way in which he is making a generalised statement is extremely objectionable....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. He has had his say.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: Unless the hon. Minister is prepared to disclose the names of the persons, he should not make this statement.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Let this not raise any controversy. I am prepared to withdraw whatever I said. Let us not proceed any further with it.

What I am saying is this, I will put it in a more positive form than in a negative form. It is a project which is a national project. It is a project in which we should all share responsibility and take the fruits, whether a man comes from Madhya Pradesh or

from Orissa or from Bengal. I still hold and maintain that as long as I am in charge of that project I shall see that the highest priority goes to the displaced persons from East Pakistan.

If you will give me 5 or 10 minutes more I will go towards the West. But I have already taken much time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister might make just a reference in 5 minutes if he wants to.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As regards the western region two or three problems have been posed. One is about retrenchment; the other is about the Kingsway Camp colony and the third is about the Rajasthan Tenancy Act of 1959.

As regards retrenchment, it is no happiness to me; it is not a matter of joy that all those who have worked in my Ministry and who have been with me for the last 10 to 12 years and who have seen very difficult times should be retrenched. It is always said—and I still hold and maintain—that the life of an officer in this Ministry, whether he is a U.D.C. or L.D.C. or an officers, is not a very happy one. If you see the fate of the Minister here you can well imagine what would be the life of these officers.

An Hon. Member: They are most happy.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. (Interruptions).

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: So, where human sympathy and consideration is concerned, nobody can feel more sorry for them than myself.

Shri Bimal Ghose: How do you help them?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The only way to help them is for you to pass a Resolution tomorrow or the day after tomorrow in this House saying that as far as the Ministry of Reha-

bilitation is concerned, until all those officers or staff who become surplus either here or in West Bengal, in Assam, Tripura or Orissa they have been rehabilitated, this Ministry should not be wound up.

How can we ask for giving me exemption from the Audit and the Public Accounts Committee? Tomorrow I am answerable to the Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee and Audit. Out of 485,000 claims only 25,000 or 30,000 remained and with an output of 8,000 to 10,000 claims monthly the whole work would be completed within 2 or 3 months and there would be very little justification for me to keep that department alive (*Interruptions*)

An Hon. Member: Not only of settling the claims but of rejecting them also.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: What I was submitting was, we have served a notice on about 30 per cent of the staff. After a month or two, there will be notices to another 20 per cent. And, then, after 3 or 4 months, there will be notices to a further 10 or 20 per cent. That means that within the next 6 or 8 months, 70 per cent of the staff will be given notice. But the most I can do is to go to the Ministry of Labour and tell the Director of Resettlement and Employment Exchange....

An Hon. Member: Why not the other Ministries? (*Interruption*).

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Without reference to any region, it is surely the responsibility of the Minister to see that these people are taken in other Ministries where there is work.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: If only the hon. Member would wait I would make a statement. I have been to the Director of Employment Exchange and I have asked him that every possible effort should be made to absorb these people who are being retrenched.

I have been to the Home Ministry; I have been to the Home Minister and, I believe, the Home Minister has also circularised all the Ministries that whatever vacancies occur should be reserved and utilised for these persons who are going out. But the number of persons who have to go and the number of vacancies that may arise today or tomorrow are so many that my own feeling is—if I were to take the House into confidence—that with all the best efforts we shall not be able to absorb all those men. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Prabhat Kar: The Railways will be able to help you.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I can only assure the House of one thing that what you are trying to tell me is my duty. They are my arms and limbs who have worked hard, toiled for me all these years. If I have a little sense or a grain of human consideration I shall not let them down. I can only go to the extent that is humanly possible and I can assure you that I shall do anything that is possible. As it is, I feel that all of them cannot be absorbed... (*Interruptions*.)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is telling us how far he can go.

Shri Prabhat Kar: There is the Department of Parliamentary Affairs.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Let him do something for them... (*Interruptions*).

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: That is all I have to say.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My fear is....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has many fears and I am sure they would not be removed. It has been conveyed to me that I have to put two cut motions 1541 and 1542 to the vote of the House.

Shri Prabhat Kar: 1684 also.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: 1481 also.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Shri Ghosal's cut motion can also be clubbed with the others.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the decision is to be taken by voice, they can certainly be clubbed. But if a division is pressed for, I shall have to take them separately. One cut motion may be selected.

Shri Prabhat Kar: 1541 may be put separately.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: My cut motion number is 1681 and not 1481.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall put out motion No. 1541 to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the Demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced to Re. 1 (Failure to rehabilitate displaced persons in Dandakaranya). (1541)

Lok Sabha divided: Ayes 28; Noes 108.

Division No. 5]

AYES

[16'35 hrs.

Banerjee, Shri Pramathanath
Banerjee, Shri S.M.
Beck, Shri Ignace
Bharucha, Shri Naushir
Gaikwad, Shri B.K.
Ghosal, Shri Aurobindo
Ghose, Shri Bimal
Ghose, Shri Subiman
Gopalan, Shri A.K.
Halder, Shri

Kar, Shri Prabhat
Kodiyar, Shri
Maihi, Shri R.C.
Menon, Shri Narayanankutty
Mohan Swarup, Shri
Mukerjee, Shri H.N.
Nair, Shri Vasudevan
Parulekar, Shri
Parvathi Krishnan, Shrimati

Punnoose, Shri
Rai, Shri Khushwaqt
Rao, Shri T.B. Vittal
Singh, Shri Braj Raj
Sonule, Shri H.N.
Tangamani, Shri
Verma, Shri Ramji
Warrior, Shri
Yajnik, Shri

NOES

Achint Ram, Shri
Ajit Singh, Shri
Bangshi Thakur, Shri
Barman, Shri
Barupal, Shri P.L.
Basappa, Shri
Bhargava, Pandit Thakur Das
Bhattacharya, Shri C.K.
Brahm Prakash, Ch.
Brajewar Prasad, Shri
Chanda, Shri Anil K.
Chaturvedi, Shri
Chavda, Shri
Choudhry, Shri C.L.
Chuni Lal, Shri
Dasappa, Shri
Deshmukh, Dr. P.S.
Dube, Shri Mulchand
Eacharan, Shri V.
Gandhi, Shri M. M.
Ganga Devi, Shrimati
Ghosh, Shri M.K.
Guha, Shri A.C.
Gupta, Shri Ram Krishan
Mazarnavis, Shri
Harvani, Shri Anwar
Mathi, Shri
Jain, Shri M.C.
Jedhi, Shri G.K.

Jena, Shri K.C.
Jhunjhunwala, Shri
Jinnabandan, Shri
Kedaria, Shri C.M.
Keshava, Shri
Khan, Shri Sadath Ali
Khawaja, Shri Jamal
Krishna, Shri M.R.
Krishna Chandra, Shri
Kureel, Shri B.N.
Lachhi Ram, Shri
Lahiri, Shri
Matida Ahmed, Shrimati
Maiti, Shri N.B.
Malliah, Shri U.S.
Malvia, Shri K.B.
Manan, Shri
Maniyargadan, Shri
Mawriya Din, Shri
Mathur, Shri Harish Chandra
Mehta, Shrimati Krishna
Miera, Shri B.D.
Miera, Shri R.R.
Murty, Shri M.S.
Nair, Shri C.K.
Nair, Shri Kuttikrishnan
Naldurgkar, Shri
Nallakoya, Shri
Narasimhan, Shri
Naskar, Shri P.S.

Oza, Shri
Padam Dev, Shri
Palaniyandy, Shri
Pande, Shri C.D.
Pandey, Shri K.N.
Panua Lal, Shri
Patel, Sushri Maniben
Patel, Shri M. N.
Prabhakar, Shri Naval
Ram Shankar Lal, Shri
Ramananda Tirtha, Swami
Rane, Shri
Rangarao, Shri
Rao, Shri Jaganatha
Rao, Shri Rameshwar
Reddy, Shri Bali
Reddy, Shri K.C.
Reddy, Shri Rami
Roy, Shri Bishwanath
Sadhu Ram Shri
Sahu, Shri Bhagabat
Sahu, Shri Rameshwar
Samanta, Shri S.C.
Sarhadi, Shri Ajit Singh
Selku, Shri
Sharma, Pandit K.C.
Sharma, Shri D.C.
Siddanajappa, Shri
Singh, Ch. Ranbir

Singh, Dr. Ram Subhag
Singh, Sardar Iqbal
Singh, Shri Babunath
Singh, Shri Birbal
Singh, Shri D.N.
Singh, Shri Dinesh
Singh, Shri Raghunath

Sinha, Shri Anirudh
Sinha, Shri Gaiendra Prasad
Sinha, Shri Sarangdhara
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan
Sinha, Shri Nardeo
Subbarayan, Dr. P.

Subramanyam, Shri T.
Thomas, Shri A.M.
Tiwari, Shri R.S.
Venkatasubbiah, Shri
Vyasa, Shri R.C.
Wannik, Shri Balakrishna
Wodeyar, Shri

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put the other three cut motions together.

The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 1. (*Failure to give alternative employment to the retrenched employees of the Rehabilitation Ministry.*)" (1542)

"That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons and Minorities' be reduced to Re. 1. (*Failure of the Dandakaranya Scheme.*)" (1681)

"That the demand under the head 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons and Minorities' be reduced by Rs. 100. (*Failure to rehabilitate displaced persons in various Camps in West Bengal.*)" (1684)

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put all the other cut motions together.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amount shown in the fourth column of the order paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st Day of March, 1961, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands No. 71, 72 and 127 relating to the Ministry of Rehabilitation."

The motion was adopted.

(The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below.—Ed.)

DEMAND No. 71—MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,90,000 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, 1961, in respect of 'Ministry of Rehabilitation'."

DEMAND No. 72—EXPENDITURE ON DISPLACED PERSONS AND MINORITIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,59,16,000 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, 1961, in respect of 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons and Minorities.'"

DEMAND No. 127—CAPITAL OUTLAY THE MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,32,48,000 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, 1961, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Rehabilitation.'"