

12.16 hrs.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

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

Does the hon. Minister want to initiate the debate?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): No, Sir. I will reply to the debate.

DEMAND NO. 74—MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,33,000 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, 1962, in respect of 'Ministry of Rehabilitation'."

DEMAND NO. 75—EXPENDITURE ON DISPLACED PERSONS AND MINORITIES

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,33,73,000 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, 1962, in respect of 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons and Minorities'."

DEMAND NO. 130—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,49,17,000 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, 1962, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Rehabilitation'."

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the activities of the Ministry of Rehabilitation and according to the official report itself, it is the fag end of the Ministry itself. Its pattern of the last 12 years had been debated in this House and, I would say, on every occasion there was difference of opinion between the hon. Minister and the other speakers who spoke in this House. Last year there was almost unanimity amongst hon. Members belonging to all political parties, including the Congress, about the activities of this Ministry during the last year and particularly about the failure of the Dandakaranya Project. I do not want to go into this matter over again. The only thing that I wish to deal with is what exactly is the position, so far as the refugees are concerned, after 13 years.

I will deal mainly with the eastern region leaving the western region to other hon. friends though I know that in the western region also there are various points which are agitating the minds of the refugees. Even today we find a press report about the refugees in the Purana Qila or about the refugees from Kashmir who represented that some amount which they should have been granted as refugee grant has not been granted to persons who were drawing some money beyond Rs. 150. Leaving that apart I will deal with the problems of refugees in the eastern region.

According to official figures, 41.17 lakhs of people migrated from East Pakistan upto the end of March, 1958. That was the official date beyond which migration certificates

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

were not to be issued. According to the report the population of displaced persons in West Bengal at the end of 1960 was 31.32 lakhs after excluding dispersals of displaced persons from West Bengal camps to other States during the year. According to this report the number of displaced persons who have already received rehabilitation assistance was 22.75 lakhs, the number of persons in the camps and at other places that still existed is 1.28 lakhs and 6.44 lakh persons were those who had not applied for rehabilitation assistance at all. This is how these 31.32 lakhs of people have been arranged and it has been said now:

"It would thus be observed that except for the displaced persons still in camps, the problem of rehabilitation in West Bengal has, by and large, been resolved."

So, according to the Ministry's report, barring the population in camps which, according to them, is 89 lakhs

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: 89,000.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I am sorry. 1,28,000 is the total out of which 89,000 are in camps and 39,000 are in homes. Barring these, all others have been rehabilitated and the problem does not exist, according to the report. Now let us see what exactly is the position. Every time when we spoke about the refugees we had been charged that we, the Opposition, were taking advantage of the situation and were trying to misguide the refugees. Leave aside all those things. What is the position today? What is the position of even those persons who have been rehabilitated in the Government colony? Is it a fact that those persons who have been given loans to get themselves rehabilitated in the colonies have been forced to sell even their tin sheds? Is it also a fact that the only profession of most of them today is begging on railway lines? This is how people who are living in Gov-

ernment colonies have been rehabilitated. This is the position today. It is in the district of Nadiad that the maximum number of refugees have been rehabilitated, in Gayeshpur, Taherpur, Khoshbas Mohalla and Cooper's Camp which is proposed to be changed into a colony. From that area up to the Twenty-four Parganas refugees have been rehabilitated. But what is the economic rehabilitation that has been given to this section of the refugees who are not in the camps? According to Government the only problem that remains is the camp refugee problem. Today the whole economy of the State of West Bengal has been shattered because of failure to rehabilitate these people who have come away from East Bengal. There are hundreds of people living on footpaths in Sealdh Station. This is the picture that presents itself, leave aside other things. From humanitarian aspect what approach has been made by the Rehabilitation Ministry? If today the Minister says that because certain loans, doles and grants have been made the problem has been solved, I am quite sure none will agree with him and everybody will admit that the Ministry has failed. According to him there is nothing more to be done.

There have been promises held out. It has been said that there would be economic rehabilitation by starting industries and providing employment for the refugees. The promise of the establishment of a textile spinning mill has been made in the case of Taherpur and Gayeshpur. But why has it not been possible to do this all these years? Why have these promises not been fulfilled up till now. Again no help has been granted to the refugees, who recently had suffered from floods. Today their conditions have further deteriorated. I can go on mentioning a long list of their grievances; but it is not necessary. Today if we look to the districts of Nadiad, 24 Parganas and Hooghly, we find that the economic condition of these refugees has not

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improved at all and in spite of the amounts which the Rehabilitation Ministry has spent, not a single family has been properly rehabilitated.

The other day there was an enquiry about a colony near the suburbs of Calcutta. It was published in the *Statesman* of the 8th March and it was admitted there that out of 1,70,000 people more than 1,20,000 have not got full rehabilitation, which means that more than 70 per cent of the refugees have not been properly rehabilitated. This is the position so far as the non-camp refugees are concerned. It has been stated that some amount has been granted to the development of industries. Mr. G. D. Birla was the Chairman of the Board. But it has been reconstituted under Mr. Sukumar Sen. I do not know what improvement has taken place, because up till now no sign has been found of the effect of the reconstitution of this Board and not a single industrial unit has come up.

There are certain new industries growing up at Triveni in Hooghly and Kalyani in Nadiad. Although some amount has been granted to the industrialist for developing those industries, no help has been given to the refugees who want to work in them. Nor have any steps been taken to see that they get employment. This is so far as non-camp refugees are concerned.

Coming to the camps, we feel that these camps should go immediately, because life in the camp degenerates a human being. No one likes to live on doles for ever. So, you have to see that camp life is given a go-by. But it is not by simply passing an order that the camps will be closed.

So far as the Dandakaranya project is concerned, I do not wish to say very much about it. Last year we had a long discussion. This is the report of the Ministry, dated the 28th November 1960, after Mr. Sukumar Sen took over as the whole-

time Chairman of the Authority on the 1st September 1960. The report says:

"Owing to the late withdrawal of the monsoon this year, the working season in Dandakaranya could not commence till the end of October. . . . The period under report was, therefore, mainly devoted to planning and organisation."

The planning was done on paper and organisation was done in office. So, so far as progress is concerned, according to the report, there has been none. Whatever might have been said last year on the floor of the House, including those Members belonging to the party to which the hon. Minister belongs, according to the Minister's own report there has been no change and the period since Mr. Sukumar Sen took over as Chairman of the Dandakaranya Development Authority was devoted to planning and organisation.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: What is the date of the report?

Shri Prabhat Kar: This report is dated the 28th November 1960.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Has the hon. Member not read the report which I gave in the month of March?

Shri Prabhat Kar: This is what the report, dated the 25th February 1961 says:

"After the withdrawal of the monsoon, the operational areas in Dandakaranya became accessible in early November 1960, when field season began. The construction of villages including developmental activities, the movement of settlers to village sites, and the allotment of homestead plots, etc., started in full swing and made rapid progress to the end of the period under report."

And what is the progress made? This is what the report says:

"In addition to the 59 village sites in Pharasgaon (3), Umar-kote (23) and Paralkote (33), 12 more have been selected in the Raigarh area. The construction of village houses is progressing rapidly on 20 village sites in Umarkote and 2 in Pharasgaon."

In regard to irrigation the report says:

"Work on the Umarkote Dam, estimated to cost about Rs. one crore, has already started. Earthwork in stripping and excavations in the puddle trench are in progress. The Dam, on completion, will irrigate 11,000 acres during the kharif season and 5,500 acres during the rabi season."

So, work has just started so far as irrigation is concerned.

The report goes on to say:

"The scheme for the Satiguda Dam in the Malkangiri Zone is under scrutiny by the Central Water and Power Commission."

So, this is still under scrutiny and work has not started. So far as progress is concerned, there is planning in paper and organisation in office. Beyond that nothing has been done. Now you want people to go to Dandakaranya. We have no objection to that. But you cannot do it by forcing them. Today, according to your own report, it is not possible for the refugees to get proper rehabilitation there and until that has been done the question of forcing them to go to Dandakaranya does not arise. This is the report that you have given me, and all that was said last year is still applicable according to your own report.

I would only just draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that there are quite a large number

of people affected. Why, instead of telling every time that the opposition political parties want to make capital of the situation, don't you look at the whole question from the humanitarian point of view? Loans were granted. You are aware under what circumstances the people got them. Knowing full well that they are not in a position to repay the loans, not even a single farthing, because they are not in a position to make both ends meet, you are issuing certificates so that all their belongings, whether it is just a *thali* or a glass, may be sold in auction and the loans may be repaid. It has been done. This is strange. So far as the Government loan is concerned, it is there. I can understand it. But why don't you look at it from the humanitarian angle that these people are not in a position to repay those loans? Today Government is not in a position to liquidate the loans, because Rs. 68 crores of loans have been granted to the refugees and they are not in a position to repay them. Today they are selling the roofs of their houses in order to continue their very existence. And in respect of these people you want immediately to issue a certificate and get the loans liquidated, because they are loans of the Government. I request the hon. Minister to consider this aspect and see that at least these things are not done. I know that the hon. Minister stated in the course of a reply to the U.C.R.C. that the loans will be realised only from those persons who are in a position to pay. I am quite in agreement with this point that those who are in a position must pay back the loans. But it should not be the case that in order to ensure these payments the Government should issue certificates to the persons who are not in a position to pay. I hope the hon. Minister who has given this assurance will consider this matter.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur):
What is U.C.R.C.?

Shri Prabhat Kar: The hon. Minister understands it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Members also should understand.

Shri Prabhat Kar: It is the united organisation of the refugees.

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): Not of the refugees, but of the refugee leaders.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Anyway, that does not matter.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: It is under the patronage of my hon. friend's party.

Shri Prabhat Kar: That is where the difficulty comes. It does not matter if we make a suggestion. It should not be that because we make the suggestion they should not accept it, saying that we are making the suggestion as a debating point.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am only volunteering the information where my hon. friend hesitated.

Shri Prabhat Kar: But Shri Guha knows it, and everybody knows it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Some of us do not know.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should make the House know it.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Sir, it was not necessary. The point was whether the loans should be realised.

Now, with regard to small scale industries, a building has been built with the amount which has been sanctioned by the Rehabilitation Ministry, but for the past six or seven years there is not a single industry put in there in the Kantaganj area, B. C. Nawn and others, and the position today is that the wall is falling if there is heavy rain. And this is an amount sanctioned by the Rehabilitation Ministry with a view to give jobs to the refugees. May I know what steps are being taken in this direction? When this amount has been granted, may I know why no steps have been taken against the

companies and why Government cannot force these industrialists to open small industries to rehabilitate the people? Why is it not possible. Promises are often made but they are not fulfilled as a result of which the proper rehabilitation of the refugees has not been made.

This Ministry is also concerned with minorities in the sense that there are quite a large number of minority refugees here. This Ministry has not done anything on their behalf in spite of the fact that these matters have been brought before the House. The Muslim minorities who suffered in the 1950 disturbances have still not been given help and nearly 75,000 of them are suffering. This matter was brought to the notice of the hon. Minister by my hon. friend Shri Muhammed Elias. But the Ministry up till now has not done anything.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have not followed the last point. Will the hon. Member please repeat it?

Mr. Speaker: He says that the hon. Minister is in charge of minority affairs also and that the question relating to the Muslim refugees has not been looked into.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I am referring to the rehabilitation of the minorities who suffered as a result of the 1950 disturbances and who have become homeless. This matter has already been brought to the hon. Minister's notice but nothing has been done up till now in that direction. This is particularly in and around Howrah and Calcutta. So far as the western region is concerned there was the question of compensation for the houses that were under the occupation of those Muslims and that have now been occupied. But in the eastern region, as there was no such policy, it has not been done. And today, so far as the rehabilitation of these persons is concerned, all these persons have been shunted out of their houses. Their rehabilitation should be done immediately. Quite a large number

of them are there. I hope the hon. Minister will look into this matter.

I now come to the last part of my submission, namely the question of the new Assam refugees. There have been questions and answers about this matter. But the point is that these are the persons who have suffered not because of anything for which they are responsible. And they have lost their home and hearth. The question is about giving them a loan or a grant. It has been stated that every one of them will be screened and sanctioned loan exactly to the extent that he has lost. I submit that whatever they have lost is not because of anything that they have committed. I therefore hope that, instead of simply granting them a loan and again recovering it, whatever is sanctioned should be sanctioned as a grant so that they can properly get themselves rehabilitated when they go back to Assam. That is my request to the hon. Minister.

Shri A. C. Guha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Ministry, as at present arranged, is practically entering into the last year of its life, and it is an occasion when we should take an overall view about the performance of this Ministry to see if this decision is justified. In the beginning I should like to say that no hasty decision should be taken to wind up the Ministry. I am saying this particularly from the point of view of the eastern side of India. I think much has remained yet to be done there.

The first point I should like to mention in this connection is about the partially rehabilitated people in West Bengal. My hon. friend Shri Prabhat Kar has mentioned that those people have really not been rehabilitated, and that they are begging at the railway platforms, sleeping on the foot-paths and squatting at the Sealdah station. That is more or less a true picture. Government claim that about twenty lakhs of people have been rehabilitated in West Bengal. But I think it has also been

admitted that about fifty per cent or even more of the people have not been properly rehabilitated. So, before any decision to wind up this Ministry is taken, the Government should formulate its policy about these partially rehabilitated people. It is no fault of theirs that the loan or grant was not given in time and in proper quantity and in proper instalments.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): Or was not given at all.

Shri A. C. Guha: So, if rehabilitation has failed in certain cases due to administrative faults of the Government, Government should see that the wrongs done to these refugee people are properly rectified and that proper steps are taken for the rehabilitation of these refugees.

I find from the report that about Rs. 60 crores of money has been spent on the camp refugees simply as doles and relief. I am sorry that such a huge amount has been spent just as a mere infructuous expenditure. If the Government had planned properly in time, I think these Rs. 60 crores would have been nearly enough to rehabilitate these three or four lakhs of people then residing in the camp. I think the maximum number in camps in Eastern India at any time was not more than three lakhs. Three lakhs persons would mean about 60,000 families. Surely, Rs. 60 crores could have done quite a fair bit for the proper rehabilitation of these 60,000 families; that would mean Rs. 10,000 per family—quite enough for their rehabilitation. Not only has this expenditure been infructuous, as not having given any economic return to the country or to the nation either in the form of production or in any other manner, but it has undermined the vitality and working capacity of those people. It has added to the social problems. It has encouraged certain immoral and anti-social proclivities amongst the refugees. It has also encouraged certain elements in the political life of the country to exploit the situation. I think the hon.

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Minister should not feel gratified over this, but the responsibility is clearly on the shoulders of his Ministry. It is his Ministry which has done this thing and arranged this thing, and, therefore, the Ministry should be responsible for the results that have accrued out of the administrative measures taken by it and the policy followed by it. Anyhow, that is a thing of the past. I think the sooner the camps are liquidated, the better it is not only for the country but also for the camp inmates.

In certain reports from the Dandakaranya Authority, and particularly the one which was said to be reprint of the press statement of Mr. Sukumar Sen, it has been stated that the camp refugees who have gone to Dandakaranya have proved themselves to be very diligent and useful people, and they have developed their areas, and their fields quite well. And Shri Sen is sanguine that even now, the vitality of those people has not been completely wiped out. So, I think early steps should be taken to liquidate the camps, and if necessary, a certain amount of compulsion also should be used—as has been agreed upon now by issuing quite notice. I do not agree with Shri Prabhat Kar when he says that no amount of compulsion should be used; we all know the voluntary system has failed to induce them to go to Dandakaranya. These people have been living there for seven or eight or nine years, living an idle life and living on the doles from the Government, and I think it will be idle to expect that they will go out of their idle life willingly and will launch on a life of uncertainty, a life of venture and a life of adventure. So, a certain amount of compulsion, (not physical compulsion) a certain amount of persuasion and inducement etc. should all be used to make these camp refugees to go to Dandakaranya. It is not merely a question of the East Bengal refugees taking advantage of the Dandakaranya scheme for their own benefit, but from the point of

view of the overall economic position of West Bengal also, I should say that the Dandakaranya scheme must be taken advantage of. If West Bengal fail to take advantage of this, we may have occasion to repent.

In this respect, I would suggest to the hon. Minister that he should see that a certain amount of flexibility is introduced into this scheme; it should not be kept closely tight only for the camp refugees or only up to 10 per cent of non-camp refugees. I think if non-camp refugees volunteer or offer themselves to go to Dandakaranya the hon. Minister should take a certain number of them there, and that would encourage the camp refugees also to go there. The camp refugees might have developed a certain amount of timidity, a certain amount of ease and so they may hesitate to go. If they find that the non-camp refugees have volunteered themselves to go to Dandakaranya and they have been doing quite well there, then the camp refugees also may be induced to go there. Therefore, I would suggest that if there is a certain offer from the non-camp refugees to go to Dandakaranya, I think the Dandakaranya Authority and also the Rehabilitation Ministry should consider that offer, and a certain number of them should be allowed to go to Dandakaranya, even though they are not camp refugees. I think that will induce the camp refugees also to go there.

I have already mentioned about the partially rehabilitated people, and I would only like to add one thing, namely that the hon. Minister should make his position clear as to whether the Ministry have got any scheme to help these partially rehabilitated refugees in West Bengal. In fact, not only the refugees in West Bengal, but perhaps a certain number of refugees rehabilitated in Assam and also in Tripura may be described as partially rehabilitated refugees. I am not so sure about the position in Assam, but

surely the position in West Bengal is serious in this respect, and it is expected that before any decision to wind up this Ministry is taken, the hon. Minister must find some solution, that is to say, the hon. Minister or the Government must find some solution in regard to these partially rehabilitated refugees in West Bengal and Tripura, who number about twelve lakhs.

Shri Prabhat Kar has mentioned that certificates are being issued, and some properties of those refugees have been put to auction. I know that certificates have been issued, but I am not sure if that has actually led to the auctioning of any property. At least, no such case has come to my notice. But, the hon. Minister should realise the social implications of the present position. Under the present arrangement, the Central Government have to bear 100 per cent of the loss on the loans given to the refugees if they are not realised. So, you can understand, Sir, that no State Government would be very much eager to realise the loans from the refugees and take some trouble in this matter, because it will be a law and order problem for them. So, they may issue notice for certificates, but I am not sure whether they will really make an earnest effort to realise the loans. Thus, the position is going to be one of making the refugees defaulters and morally guilty persons. They know that they would not be paying the loans, and the State Government also somehow give them the idea that though they may issue a certificate, yet, they are not going to enforce it, and they are not going to put any property to auction. This is not simply possible for them, nor that would be socially justified. Still, this attitude or this mental outlook on the part of Government which makes the refugees defaulters and morally guilty persons should not be allowed to continue. It is better that Government take a decision to write off the loans as far as possible up to a certain amount. I think the maximum loan given to the urban refugees might be about

Rs. 2,500, and to the rural refugees about Rs. 1,500 or thereabouts. So, if a decision is taken that loans up to Rs. 3,000 would be written off, there would not be any loss as such to Government in the realisation of the loans. And the refugees will also feel that they are no longer defaulters, but they are honourable citizens of the country and they can live as honourable members of the society.

In this respect, I should remind you also of the fact that there is no policy of giving compensation to the East Bengal refugees. I tried to raise this question on two or three other occasions. On one occasion, I was ruled out of order. Anyhow, the matter was raised in this House, and we discussed it on several occasions. I think Government should now take a firm decision that in lieu of compensation all loans amounting up to Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 3,500 should be written off. Loans given for mere industrial or business purposes or to such agencies might be processed, and something should be taken about them, but ordinary loans, that is, rehabilitation loans given for house-building or a small trade etc. in the normal course, amounting up to Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 35,00 should be written off. That would not affect the revenue to the Central Government, because in any case, the Central Government are not going to get back that money, and the Central Government themselves know that they would not get it. That is why the policy has been laid down that any loss in the realisation of the loans even up to hundred per cent will be borne by the Central Government and the State Government would not have to share any loss.

About Dandakaranya, Shri Prabhat Kar has stated that no progress has been made in Dandakaranya since last year, I think that it is very much of an exaggeration. I find from the information that I have been able to gather not only from the Government reports but also from the other reports that much progress has been made. Still, it has to be realised that

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those who will go there will go there as pioneers and colonisers, and they will have to face the hard life of pioneers and colonisers. In every country, colonisers have to undergo a special hardship, and I expect that the East Bengal refugees who are now in camps would be able to undertake that. They should be encouraged to undertake that. They should feel that they are going to open a new phase in India's economy and they are pioneers in developing a vast undeveloped territory with immense resources. They should be given to understand that it is a task of honour and a matter of obligation to the country and to the nation. So even if there are some difficulties and handicaps and something wrong with the administration, I think that should not deter the East Bengal refugees from going to Dandakarnya. They should be encouraged to go to Dandakarnya.

According to the latest census, the density of population in West Bengal is over 1000 per square mile. West Bengal requires some outlet, otherwise its economy will have to face great hardship. So Dandakaranya will provide not only an outlet for East Bengal refugees, but subsequently it will be an outlet for the surplus population not only of West Bengal but of other States like Kerala who require an outlet for their surplus population.

In the Dandakaranya scheme, Government should see that money is properly spent. They have taken a number of tractors. Some of them were from the Central Tractor Organisation; these were condemned even when they were taken over by the Central Tractor Organisation. They served the CTO for 10 or 12 years and now the Dandakaranya Development Authority has taken them over. About 58 tractors or so have been taken from ordnance factories; but none of them has been in use till now. The Dandakaranya scheme should not be made a dumping ground for condemned tractors or other machinery or even as an experimental ground for developing the tractor

industry. For that, they may have other schemes. For that they may use the government farm in Rajasthan or some other place. Nothing should be done at the cost of the refugees in this manner.

I think this tractor affair in the Dandakaranya scheme is a regrettable matter. Something should be done to remedy this and the Ministry should see that proper tractors are imported, if necessary, or manufactured here and those tractors should be made to render the service they are intended to give.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): We have purchased 45 tractors from outside.

Shri A. C. Guha: I think they may have been giving some service. I find that large sums of money have been spent on training schemes. But I do not know what has come out of those schemes. Unless the training schemes are followed up by setting up some small-scale or cottage industries, the training schemes are more or less useless. They should see that whenever there is a training scheme, the trainees should be put in some industries set up by the Ministry or financed by the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation.

As regards the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation, I expect that it will not be just a loan-giving agency like so many other organisations of Government, the IFC, the National Industrial Development Corporation or the ICICI. The RIC should be used for sponsoring small-scale and cottage industries in rehabilitation areas. Gradually some deductions may be made from the earnings of the refugees to reimburse the Corporation for the investment it has made at the beginning and in that way ultimately those industries may be transferred to those refugees.

In this connection, I would also suggest that the RIC should start cer-

tain rural or small industrial estates in the rehabilitation areas. I have already written to the present Chairman of the Corporation and I hope the Ministry and the Corporation will take up the matter seriously of setting some small-scale industries in the rehabilitation areas and employing refugees there, as also of starting certain rural industrial estates.

I have nothing more to say, Sir. I think no hasty decision should be taken about winding up this Ministry. In my opinion, this Ministry has some more work to do at least in the eastern part of India.

Mr. Speaker: Three hours have been allotted for this Ministry. I would request hon. Members to limit their speeches to a duration of 10 minutes.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The limit of time allotted to the Ministry should be extended.

An Hon. Member: It is a very important Ministry.

Shri D. C. Sharma: You have the discretion to extend the time by one hour and I would request you to exercise that privilege to the fullest possible extent.

Mr. Speaker: No, no. We have calculated the time given to all the Ministries on the basis that we will be sitting till 6 P.M. every day. If we extend the time, very few hon. Members sit here after 6 P.M.

Shri Bimal Ghose (Barrackpore): The Rehabilitation Ministry and the Ministry of Transport and Communications have been allotted 11 hours. If we fix it as 12 hours, we can take half an hour or 45 minutes more for this Ministry and then finish the two by tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi (Ludhiana): Very few hours were allotted to this Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Each hon. Member will have ten minutes.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Is the time extended?

Mr. Speaker: Let me see. If necessary, I will extend it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am of the view that this Ministry should not be treated as a bank that is being liquidated but as a person who is being retired but who has chances of re-employment again and again. I hope that before completing its work, the Ministry will not be wound up.

I have no doubt about the fact that there are so many loose ends in this Ministry up to this time and those problems cannot be solved if they are entrusted to some other Ministry or department. It is necessary that this Ministry should have a longer lease of life than the hon. Member thinks it has.

My second point is that this Ministry should make a distinction between evacuees who belong to the so-called high castes and the evacuees who belong to the so-called scheduled castes. I know the Ministry has been giving some concession in the case of those evacuees who belong to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes. But I must submit very respectfully that those concessions are not very adequate. There is a world of difference between the economic position of those persons who owned houses, lands and other things in East Bengal or in West Pakistan and those persons who came here without leaving behind any houses or lands or anything of the kind. The latter are not to be treated at par with those persons who can be described as men of property. I know that some concessions have been given, but I submit very respectfully that those concessions are very very inadequate. The Ministry should rethink this question and should again try to grapple with this problem and come to the conclusion that the members of

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scheduled castes and other persons deserve much more than they have been already given.

This idea is not peculiar to my constituency only, but it is applicable to all the States of India where refugees have settled. What the Ministry does is this. Sometimes it says that this land is urban land and sometimes that is rural land. Thereby, it creates hardships for refugees. Sometimes it says that these persons who had houses there should be treated in one way. Sometimes they say that these persons have not got houses there and they should be treated in a different way. All kinds of classifications are being perpetrated by this Ministry and they are working against the interests of the so-called scheduled castes and tribes. I have a case in point. In Pathankot I find that a large number of refugees who belong to Harijan class are being put to a great deal of trouble. They have been living in *jhuggis* and straw huts for the last 14-15 years and now they are going to be uprooted. Their houses are going to be auctioned; their lands are going to be auctioned; they are going to be dispossessed of their houses.

13 hrs.

Now, I would say, this kind of treatment should not be meted out to anybody in this country of mine and far less to refugees who belong to the so-called scheduled castes. After all, these persons have to be treated on a different footing from the persons of other classes. It is necessary that the concessions given to the scheduled castes should be reviewed by the Ministry again so that these scheduled caste persons are not again uprooted and again put to all those kinds of hardships to which the refugees have been put.

My next point is this: the Dandakaranya scheme—I have taken a lot of interest in it even though I do not belong to West Bengal—was born under an ill-star and ever since it

came into existence we have been facing all kinds of troubles there. The most deplorable aspect of the scheme is that some persons have come to acquire a kind of political vested interest in keeping people away from Dandakaranya. They have come to acquire some kind of compulsion of their own that this Dandakaranya scheme should not be a success. It is very unfortunate. Of all kinds of follies in this world, I think, the most maddening folly and the most criminal folly is this that one should play with the miseries of people, that one should play with the hardships of people in order to make political capital out of it. I would say that this is what is happening.

Shri Bimal Ghose: That is not general.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I wish well to Dandakaranya scheme and I know that a lot of money has been spent by the Ministry in making the scheme successful. It has made so many administrative changes: it has made so many other kinds of changes. If a few tractors have not been able to give good performance, that does not mean that the Dandakaranya scheme has failed. We should not confuse small mishaps with big things. I would request all the hon. Members who come from West Bengal to prevail upon the camp refugees to go to Dandakaranya. They should bring the force of their personalities and the force of their arguments to bear upon these persons so that they can go there and have a clean, decent and respectable life. This is very necessary. Otherwise, I think, the Dandakaranya scheme will be very bad blot not only on the Ministry of Rehabilitation but also a bad blot on those political parties—I do not distinguish between one political party and another political party—who have not permitted these persons to take advantage of those concessions and those good offers which have been given by this Ministry.

Sir, I would very respectfully submit that this Dandakaranya scheme should not be treated as a provincial scheme, as a scheme which belongs only to one State, as a scheme which is the concern of only one particular State Government. I think this scheme should be treated on an all-India basis. I agree with my hon. friend Mr. Guha that non-camp refugees should also be allowed to go there. I would say that the hon. Minister should consider that if the West Bengal refugees are not prepared to go there, the scheme may be thrown open to other States also.

Shri A. C. Guha: They would go.

Shri D. C. Sharma: It should be thrown open to all other States also. I would respectfully submit that the Dandakaranya scheme is a very good scheme and we should do our best to make it a success. Mr. Sukumar Sen is now in charge of that scheme and I hope that the scheme will fructify as desired by the hon. Minister.

My next point is that in spite of the fact that the hon. Minister has so many friends in Pakistan and has been speaking of those friends, this gentleman has not been able to give a good account of himself so far as dealings with Pakistan are concerned. Our affairs with Pakistan are of many kinds. But, they are very big things. But, here are involved small issues which can be settled between our Minister and their Minister without much difficulty. I would say that the hon. Minister has not shown any sense of urgency, has not shown any sense of political necessity to tackle the Pakistan Government in order that those problems may be solved. What is the fate of the Immovable Property Agreement? It is hanging in the air. What is the fate of our claims, pensions, provident fund and other things? They are yet incomplete. God alone knows when they will be completely settled. What is the fate of those persons who have left their pensions funds there? What is the

fate of those persons who have left their insurance policies there? What is the fate of those contractors' claims? What is the fate of those persons who had invested some money in co-operative societies? All these things make a very distressing and sorry tale. While reading this Report I find that the hon. Minister is treating even these items in a cold, routine manner. I feel very sorry about it that he should not see the human problem behind all this. I do not know how many times he has gone to Pakistan. I think, this should have been for him one of the big priorities. He has been going here and there. Of course, he should go there also. But, he has not made any effort recently to go to Pakistan in order to settle these outstanding problems between us and the Pakistan Government. I would say that he should do his best to settle these problems.

Another point that I would like to make is this. This Ministry has been in indecent haste to die. I have heard of some persons who take too long a time to die. But, here is this Ministry which has tried to court a kind of a very quick death. What is happening is this. Look at the number of outstanding problems that are there between this Ministry and the refugees from West Pakistan. A number of those problems have been mentioned in the Report of this Ministry. Their number is very large. But, what is this Ministry doing? This Ministry is trying to hand over those problems to other Ministries. It is like giving your own crippled child to somebody else so that he can look after it. A person can look after a healthy child. But, nobody is going to look after the maimed, blind or deaf child. Now, all these problems are being handed over to the tender mercies of other Ministries. I think this is, to speak the least of it, most unsympathetic. It is hard-hearted, I should say. I would, therefore, say that so far as these things are concerned, they should be administered in some different way. I would like

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that there is some kind of shadow Ministry to administer these departments. It is not that they should be given over to other Ministries.

The last point that I want to make is this. There are some persons who say that this Ministry has been very good to the West Pakistan Refugees but has not been very good to the East Pakistan refugees. I think nothing can be father from the truth than this. I would submit that from West Pakistan came 47.40 lakh refugees and from East Pakistan came 41.17 lakh refugees. The sum of money that has been spent on the West Pakistan refugees is Rs. 192.19 crores and the sum that has been spent on the refugees from East Pakistan is Rs. 191.89 crores. What is the *per capita* expenditure? The *per capita* expenditure in the case of displaced persons from West Pakistan is Rs. 405 and that in the case of the displaced persons from East Pakistan is Rs. 466. Therefore, I would very respectfully submit that so far as the question of rehabilitation is concerned, this Ministry has been very fair to both sides.

I would submit that in spite of everything this Ministry should not hand over these beneficent things to other Ministries, things which have been handed over to the Health, Commerce and Education Ministries. I know that in my State and all over India there are so many schools and colleges and educational institutions which are not yet in a way to stand on their own legs. This Ministry is handing them over to other Ministries. I would request the Minister that so far as these beneficent departments are concerned he should continue to administer them for a year or for 2 years or as long as he is there. Of course, when he commits suicide, I will have nothing to say. But, so long as he is alive I would request him to consider all these departments as departments under his own charge. These departments are given on pages 2 and 3 of this report.

I hope the Minister will look into these things and will not leave the West Pakistan refugees in the lurch. I hope he can devote as much time to them as he has been doing so far and that he will make equal distribution of time between the West Pakistan and East Pakistan refugees or he can give 60 per cent of his time to the East Pakistan refugees and 40 per cent of his time to the West Pakistan refugees.

Mr. Speaker: I will call one of the two hon. Members from the PSP Shri Banerjee or Shri Ghose. Let them decide for themselves.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Sir Shri Banerjee will speak for our group. But shall I get 5 or 7 minutes?

Mr. Speaker: I do not know. Shri Banerjee

Shri Pramathanath Banerjee (Contai). Sir, the clammy that has fallen to the lot of the States of Punjab and Bengal will be considered not by the present generation only but by the future generations also. It is very difficult and intricate.

My belief is this; I am sure that one day the two parts of India will be united. The whole world is going to be one world and why not the two parts of India which were one for a long time from times immemorial? In this partition Bengal and Punjab suffered the most. Punjab suffered a little less than Bengal because in Punjab the migration was from both sides but in Bengal the migration of refugees was only from one side from East Pakistan. Therefore the burden of Bengal was much heavier than the burden of Punjab. Moreover Bengal's fate was that she was twice partitioned once in 1905 during the regime of Lord Curzon and the second time during the time of attaining independence.

In the first case, the partition of Bengal was annulled; but Bengal had

to lose much. She lost valuable districts such as Manbhum, Singbhum, Purnea, the Santhal Parganas etc. At that time the leaders of Bihar promised that these districts would be returned to Bengal after independence. But independence came and that promise was not kept. If these districts were with us, the problem of the influx of refugees that are coming from East Pakistan would not be there. We would have managed to accommodate them in these districts, Singbhum, Mangbhum etc. which are allied to Bengal.

After the second partition, two-thirds of the area of Bengal has gone to East Pakistan. The Hindus of East Pakistan were tortured so much that they were compelled to come to West Bengal. First came the rich and the intelligentsia, and they came and settled in Calcutta and around Calcutta. Next came the middle classes and next the labour. They fell into the clutches of different political parties in Bengal who tried to gain something from their distress.

Now, the States of Orissa and Bihar gave shelter to some of our refugees. But, our refugees who were sent to Orissa and Bihar could not stay there; they could not accommodate themselves there and they came back to Bengal. Government was in a fix what to do with this large number of refugees. They have now selected Dandakaranya for the Bengal refugees. It was a wise selection because a large number of refugees could not be accommodated in any other State. Dandakaranya, I may say is greater than the whole of Bengal and the climate and the amenities of life that can be had there are also ample. There is lack of enthusiasm on the part of the Bengal refugees to go there. Our hon. Minister says so and it has been told by some other friends also. If a substantial number of Bengal refugees do not go there, other persons or refugees from other States may go and settle there. If the political parties of Bengal who have taken the lead in these matters induce the refugees to

go to Dandakaranya, it will be much helpful for them to get their livelihood. I know colonisation is in their blood because they do not fear to colonise; they have colonised Bengal before. Our poet has written;

“एकोदा जहार विजय सेनानी हलाय लंका
कोरिलो जय
एकोदा जहार अर्णवपोत भ्रमिलो भारत
सागर मय
संतानो जार निव्वत चीन जापाने गोठिलो
उपनिवेश”

Once the sea-going vessels of Bengal roamed all over the Indian Ocean; the people of Bengal colonised in Tibet, in China and in Japan. Therefore colonisation is in their blood and they will not fail to colonise if they go to Dandakaranya. They say that Dandakaranya is not suitable for that and that it is full of tigers and snakes and so on; it is forest land and therefore they may not be happy if they go there. I think that they should be given to understand that in Bengal also they faced the same problem; our forefathers also faced the same problem and our poet has written:

“बाघेर संगे युद्ध कोरिया आमरा बाबिया आछे
आमरा देलाय-नागरे नाचाई नागेर मायाय नाकी
आमादेर छेले युद्ध कोरिछे सज्जित चतुरगे
दशाननजयी रामचन्द्रेर प्रपितामहेर संगे
आमादेर छेले विजय सिद्ध लंका कोरिया जय
मिहल नाम रेखे गेछे निज शौर्य परचय।”

We fought with the tigers and lived in Bengal; we made the snakes dance and we danced on their heads; our soldiers have fought with the great-grandfather of Ramachandra who conquered Ravan; our son Vijay Singh has easily conquered Ceylon and given the name Singhal to show his prowess. So, it is the blood of the Bengalis and I hope that if a committee is formed by our hon. Minister consisting of all the M.Ps and MLAs of Bengal, they will go from camp to camp and induce and advice them to go to Dandakaranya to settle there because in Bengal there is competition and the young men of

[Shri Pramathanath Banerjee]

West Bengal have no livelihood and so there is competition between the East Bengal refugees and the West Bengal youngmen. The hon. Minister says that they will start industries; Even if industries are started; there will still be this competition. But in Dandakaranya there will be no competition either in industry or in agriculture. I came to know from the hon. Minister that there would be a large paper mill there where only the refugees will get employment, they will not have to compete with others either for employment or for other amenities. I hope the present difficult phase will go away and we shall get a good time when our refugees from East Bengal will go to Dandakaranya which is in the midst of India and from Dandakaranya our culture and other things which are good enough will reach the places around Dandakaranya and in the long run, in future our Minister of Rehabilitation will be congratulated by future generations because he was wise to find out such a place for the settlement of the Bengali refugees.

Shri Balraj Madhok (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, many hon. Members have already spoken about the position of East Bengal refugees and Dandakaranya, I will confine myself mainly to the western sector, and Delhi particularly. It is said that the rehabilitation work is over and the Ministry is being wound up. But I think that much still remains to be done. There are still lakhs of claims to be settled. There is the question of evacuee property, bank deposits, lockers and so on. All these questions have to be settled. So many agreements are made with Pakistan piecemeal. It is necessary that while talking to Pakistan these questions about the refugees should also be taken up and an overall agreement should be arrived at instead of piecemeal agreements.

Now, Sir, I have been elected from Delhi and, as you know, Sir, there are lakhs of refugees in Delhi. Living

conditions in some refugee areas are worse than slums. For instance, there is the Kingsway Camp and you must have visited that place. People are living there in conditions which are shameful to a civilised country, particularly to the capital of the country. There is suspense in *Purana Qila* where Rs. 20 lakhs at last had been spent in building tenements and schools and all that. All that is going to waste; people are being driven out of that area and they are not being given accommodation though they were living in houses which they had built, *baradri*, of their own. They are being given plots. They should be given alternative houses on no-profit-no-loss basis. There are thousands of khokhawalas and shop-keepers who have not been given any kind of accommodation and it is these people who are being exploited. I saw during the elections how people went and put pressure on them and they were told: if you vote for us, you will be given shops; otherwise, not. They may vote for anybody but they should be given accommodation. These khokhas are a blot on Delhi and they should be removed and alternative pucca accommodation should be given, in Lajpatrai market or anywhere else. Then, in Kotla Ferzeshah also, people live in suspense whether they will be allowed to remain there or asked to go away. They should be assured that they will not be evicted from their quarters. If the quarters are not good, they can be improved. But this kind of suspense in which thousands of people are living should be removed.

Then a lot of profiteering is going on. We blame others if they do so. But this Ministry has taken land at 4 annas or 8 annas a square yard and the development cost comes to about Rs. 5 per square yard but the price charged by it from refugee allottees ranges from about Rs. 30 to 50 per square yard. In that way, it appears that this Ministry is not the Ministry of Rehabilitation but it is a Ministry of profiteers. This is wrong; when the

Government had said that they would give houses to the evacuees on the no-profit no-loss basis, why are they making profits?

Then there is a lot of discrimination also. For instance, take Multani Dhandha. There are about 340 plots there. 295 plots are evacuee plots and 45 are held by the local people, and 45 people are staying there. They are not being charged anything but ground rent, which was being charged from them since 1951. There are 295 evacuee plots and from the refugees who are living in those plots, they are demanding Rs. 60 to Rs. 80 per sq. yard for those plots. Further that money is being calculated while evaluating the price of the structures. This is wrong. There should be no discrimination and they should all be treated in the same way. On the nazul land even, if you are charging ground rent from the local people, you should charge the ground rent from the evacuees also.

Another aspect which I should like to bring to the notice of the Ministry is about the sale of property. It was laid down first that when properties were transferred to the refugees there would be no registration tax. But now it has been decided that on the property which is being transferred to the refugees, four per cent by way of registration tax will be charged. If the tenement is of the value of Rs. 5,000, the registration tax will be Rs. 200, and if it is of the value of Rs. 10,000, the allottees will have to pay Rs. 400 as tax. Why should such a condition be put on the refugees? Why not treat them better? If they were not transferred so far and if registration has not been done so far, why blame the refugees? I say that the Ministry has not been active in this matter. It has been following delaying tactics. This is a heavy burden being put on the refugees and if such a thing is done it is wrong. The Government should not put such a heavy burden on them.

Then there is the question of tenements and the payment for the tene-

ments. There has been a demand for a long time that these payments should be made in instalments. As a result of persistent demands, the number of instalments was raised to eight. Some people have paid the first and second instalments. But still there are people who cannot pay the money in eight instalments. When we give loans under the low income group housing scheme, we get the money back in 20 instalments. I ask: why not the same concession be given to the refugees and these loans be treated as those given under the low income group housing scheme and the money collected back in 20 instalments as in the low income group housing scheme? If that is done, that will give a lot of relief to the refugees. I am not crying for the moon. These are very simple demands which can be easily met only if a sympathetic and humane approach is taken towards these problems. Then alone these problems can be tackled satisfactorily.

Let us now take the conditions outside Delhi. In other States, the conditions are no better. Of course, I do not know much about other States, but I know the conditions in Jammu and Kashmir State. There, the conditions are so bad.

13.34 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

There is a saying in Hindi which runs thus:

ग्रन्धेर नगरी चोपट राजा,

टके मेर लकड़ी टके मेर खाजा ।

This saying can well be applied to those people there. There is no law in this respect there. In other States, we find evacuee laws, and we have refugee laws but there is no law for Jammu and Kashmir State. They are doing things by executive orders. You are spending crores of money. That money has not gone to the people who deserve it. It has not gone to the people who have to be rehabilitated. On the other hand, what is happening is, their claims have not been registered.

[Shri Balraj Madhok]

Thousands have come there from Mirpur and other areas. Their claims were not registered so far. They have been clamouring for it. Now, a decision has been taken that they should be given an *ad hoc* grant of Rs. 3,500. A man who had a claim of Rs. 10 lakhs will be given an *ad hoc* grant of Rs. 3,500. If the man had a claim of Rs. 1,000, he will get the same grant! Out of this grant, Rs. 2,500 or so are to be deducted towards the cost of small areas of land that have been given to them. In some cases it is one acre; in some cases it is two acres, and in some cases it is 12 or 13 acres. A sum of Rs. 2,500 is going to be deducted and then the land which is given to them would be their own. They are evacuees who have gone to Pakistan and they are still coming. I do not know how long this will continue. When they come back the land is given to them. The man gets the grant and he settles down after ten years. Most of them are Pakistani agents; they are saboteurs; they come as Pakistani agents. There is some income from the evacuee lands shops, etc., and that income, instead of being used for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons, is being put in a separate fund the evacuee fund, and that fund is used by those people who sabotaged India and went to Pakistan for carrying on propaganda against this country. When they come back to sabotage India, as Pakistan agents, that money is being given to them and that land is given to them. This is a shameful condition. (*Interruption*). This must be remedied.

Shri A. M. Tariq (Jammu and Kashmir): It is wrong. To quote an example like that is wrong. To say that a person who has gone back or a person who has left for good, when he comes back, he is given the same land which was occupied by a refugee in Jammu and Kashmir State, is wrong.

Shri Balraj Madhok: I am definite about it in Jammu and Kashmir State.

Can you deny that fact? That money which was given is not being used for rehabilitation purposes. It is being used and kept in a separate fund. Lands are being given back in Rajouri area. I can tell you that this is not justified—to give back the land to those who have come back.

Then there is discrimination in other respects also. There are many refugees or displaced persons who came from Muzaffarabad and Poonch and they want to settle in Kashmir province. Certain obstacles are put to see that they do not settle in Kashmir province and that they are sent out of that province. Then, there is another class of displaced persons in Kashmir—a number of people from West Pakistan from Sialkot and neighbouring areas, —who have settled in Kathua and Jammu district. There are about 50,000 of them. Apart from not giving rehabilitation benefits to them, they are not being treated as Indian citizens. You will be surprised to know that they have no right to vote. We complain about the stateless Indians in Lanka (Ceylon). But here, they are stateless in our own country. They have been living there for ten or 12 years. But they are not being given the right to vote, so that the voting strength of the non-Muslims may not increase. It is a most shameful thing. There is discrimination in the Kashmir State in other ways too. When they distribute the grant of Rs. 3,500 to the evacuees, there is a lot of chicanery, a lot of favouritism is being used. I would suggest that the hon. Minister should appoint an enquiry committee to see how the money that has been given to Jammu and Kashmir State for the resettlement of the evacuees has been spent wrongly and has not been spent properly. The money has been spent towards the partisan ends, and not for the purpose of rehabilitation of the people for whom it was meant. These are things which might not have come to the notice of the Ministry, but which are facts, and I can stand gua-

rantee about the veracity of these facts. I would request the hon. Minister to take note of these things.

Then, about Delhi.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member should try to conclude now. Only ten minutes were allowed for each Member, by the hon. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: It is his maiden speech.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes; but there is a limit.

Shri Balraj Madhok: I hope attention will be devoted to set things right, and that notice will be taken of all that I have said. About Delhi....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: For Delhi, we will have many more appeals!

Shri Balraj Madhok: There is just one more point that I would like to touch, about Delhi. I refer to the employees of this Ministry. There are hundreds of employees now in the Ministry. If the Ministry is wound up, they are very much apprehensive as to what will happen to them. About 250 employees have put in a service of about six months or less on an average. According to the Government rules, those who have put in less than six months' service cannot be guaranteed re-employment. Their employment exchange cards have become useless and some of them are over-aged. They cannot apply for Government service or anywhere else. What will happen to them? I would request the hon. Minister to take a humane view about them, and they should be taken back into service. There are so many avenues which can absorb them and where they should be fixed up. I request the hon. Minister to consider their case sympathetically. They should not be thrown on the roads.

Shri Shobha Ram (Alwar): I would like to refer to some of the problems of the displaced persons in the districts

of Alwar and Bharatpur in the State of Rajasthan. It is not a zonal problem; if I may say so, it is a human problem which is exercising or agitating the minds not only of the displaced persons there but also of the representatives who present them in Parliament as well as in the State legislatures. At the present moment, the displaced persons who are allotted lands are asked—the demand is made—to pay the price of the land allotted to them and also the price of the houses,—the taccavi loan—and arrears of the sawajaman. So far as these two recoveries are concerned, that is, the taccavi loans and the arrears of the sawajaman, I would be the first man to say that they are quite just.

We have spoken to the allottees that they should pay the arrears of sawajoman as well as the instalments which have accrued so far, so far as taccavi loans are concerned.

So far as the realisation of the price of the land and of the rural houses is concerned, I would like to refer to the time when the then erst-while States of Alwar and Bharatpur issued a statement that they want to settle on their lands to the tune of 1 lakh people. When the terms and conditions of the agreement were mentioned to them, there was no specific mention made that later on, after the lapse of 10 or 15 years, they will be asked to pay the price of the land. I know it for certain that the conditions imposed upon them were that they would not be able to sublet their allotment, they would not be able to use those lands contrary to the uses mentioned in the patta and they would not refuse or fail to pay the rent. There were three conditions imposed upon them. I would like to mention in this connection that under the Displaced Persons (Rehabilitation and Compensation) Act, 1954 and the rules made thereunder, read with rule 102, it has become necessary that no displaced person's allotment can be cancelled unless these three conditions are violated. Therefore, when there is no violation of any term or condition against the D.P. allottee, the question

[Shri Shobha Ram]

of ejection or realisation of the price of the land, I think, should not arise.

I would like to refer to the proceedings of the Inter-Dominion Conference which was held from 10th January to 13th January, 1949. The question of non-substantial rural houses came up before that commission. It was decided that in regard to claims below Rs. 20,000 so far as rural houses were concerned, which were left in Pakistan, they were not entertained on this ground that they were duly compensated by the allotment of agricultural land along with rural houses.

I referred to this last year and again I will refer to it. The question arose in those two districts about the clarification of the status of the D.P. allottees. I am referring to the non-claimant D.P. allottees. Then a letter was written from the General Secretary, Pradesh Congress Committee to the then General Secretary, All India Congress Committee, Shri Shriman Narayan. We requested him to clarify the position and if necessary enquire from the Rehabilitation Minister. We received a letter from the Ministry of Rehabilitation saying that so far as allottees are concerned, they will not be ejected and will continue in possession, but to acquire right of ownership, however they will have to pay the price of land in 15 equal instalments and they are not worse off than the Khatedars in the State of Rajasthan.

I want the Minister of Rehabilitation to clarify one point. In case the D.P. allottees are not in a position to pay the price of land, I want to know whether they will be ejected and whether the purchasers who purchase the lands in auction—if the lands are auctioned in case they fail to pay the price of the land—will be in a position to get vacant possession from the D.P. allottees. That has become more important in view of the fact that the pattern of land reforms adopted by the Government of Rajasthan is, we have

made the tiller of the soil khatedar, even though he was cultivating the land for a period of six months, with the right to sell, to mortgage, to succeed and with every sort of right. We can just imagine in a particular village a neighbouring local tenant who was occupying the land for a period of six months was given khatedar rights without taking anything from him; the whole compensation has been paid by the Government of Rajasthan to the biswedars—landlords—without charging a pie from the local tenant. Now the neighbouring allottees are being asked to pay the price of the land. Does it fit in with the pattern of land reforms adopted by the Government of Rajasthan?

I am one of those who believe in the national policy for the establishment of a socialist pattern of society. I want to know whether it is our intention to make the poor more poorer and the rich more richer, because the whole argument advanced by the Rehabilitation Ministry is that we want to raise the compensation pool; we want to take money from the non-claimant D.P.s whose claims have been rejected and not entertained. If that is done simply to compensate those claimant D.P.s who have their claims above Rs. 20,000, will it lead to the establishment of a socialist pattern of society?

I want to mention one thing also. Under article 254(2) of the Constitution, if an Act passed by a State Legislature with respect to a matter in the Concurrent List contains any provision repugnant to the provisions of an earlier Act of Parliament, the Act passed by the State will prevail, so far as the Concurrent List is concerned, if the Act has received the assent of the President. In 1959, we have passed in Rajasthan the Zamindari and Biswedari Abolition Act. It is applied to all types of agricultural lands in every district in the whole of Rajasthan. Under that Act, the biswedars are being compensated by

the Government of Rajasthan, but the tenants are not liable to pay even a single pie for those rights, which they have obtained and which have accrued to them as a result of that Act. Both these taken together, it appears that the question should be considered more sympathetically.

In case they refuse and say, "Look here, take our cattle in lieu of the taccavi loans and take your lands", will the hon. Minister of Rehabilitation do so and allow them to become displaced persons again? In case their lands are auctioned and they are again made displaced persons, can we conceive what should be the amount required to rehabilitate those uprooted displaced persons again? It will be to the tune of more than Rs. 20 crores—I am not exaggerating—because there are 30,000 families residing in the districts of Alwar and Bharatpur. This consideration must be taken into account.

I do not want that the ownership right should be granted to them, in the light of the statement made by the hon. Minister. He has clearly stated that if they want to acquire ownership or proprietary rights, they will have to pay the price of the land. Therefore, this point should be made very clear whether those who do not want to acquire proprietary rights on account of their financial position will be evicted from the land or not. This is the apprehension which is exercising and agitating our minds. I can assure him that so far as the question of realisation of Sawaijaman and the repayment of the taccavi loans is concerned, I will take the responsibility that within a month or so, they will pay the two amounts, in case they are given an assurance, in case the position with regard to their possession of the land allotted to them is made clear, that they will not be ejected. All right. What are we going to do in case a person is not in a position to pay, because the amount of realisation of the price of the land comes to the tune of between Rs. 2,200 and Rs. 2,500 to be paid in 15 instalments which comes to a huge sum of money?

The hon. Minister should appreciate that we have been placing this problem before him for the last three years. I have also met him two or three times. He has given due consideration to the problem. I do not want to accuse the Ministry, but I feel that the crux of the problem or the gravity of the problem has not been fully appreciated by the Ministry. I feel that unless the whole position, their whole apprehension about the possession of land so far as the question of eviction is concerned is made clear, it will not lead to any satisfactory solution.

So far as other problems are concerned, I will be one of those who will lend his fullest co-operation to the Ministry of Rehabilitation for every problem which is due to be solved. I would only request the hon. Minister to make a very clearcut statement as to what steps the Ministry of Rehabilitation is going to take in case the D.P. allottees are not in a position to pay the price of the land, in case they are not in a position to acquire the ownership or property rights, and whether they are going to be evicted or not.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister and the Ministry for the manner in which they have tried to dispose of the residuary problem on the western wing, but still I would say that the problem in their hands is so colossal, so big, that I think it will be very difficult for them to finish it by the middle of this year as they intend to do and as they have said in their report.

Sir, the residuary problem can be divided into four categories. The first one is the work pertaining to urban property, both evacuee and built by the Government. The second one pertains to agricultural lands allotted to refugees pending disposal and transfer in Punjab. The third relates to public institutions belonging to displaced persons. And the fourth and important problem deals with the

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services, the personnel of the Ministry.

In the short time at my disposal I shall deal very briefly with these four categories. I shall first take the question of evacuee properties, both government built as well as those allotted to the displaced persons. The Minister will say that out of the 4.87 lakh applicants for compensation 4.84 lakh applicants have been given the statements of accounts. But if we look at the property figures, he will find that out of Rs. 100 crores worth of evacuee property he has disposed of only property worth Rs. 65.27 crores, leaving thereby nearly Rs. 34 crores worth of property yet to be disposed of. I am fortified in my argument when I submit that out of the total number of evacuee properties—286148 evacuee properties and 194442 government properties—only 351994 properties, which constitute both government built properties and also evacuee properties, have been disposed of. Therefore, the number that has been so far transferred represents only two-third of the total. The number that still awaits disposal is 128596. Even after starting the work in May 1955 after the passing of the Displaced Persons Act they had been able to do only two-third of the work. If that is so, may I ask how they will be able to dispose of one-third of the work in the few months that are left? Therefore, my submission in this connection is that the residuary work is so colossal and the problem is such that the approach should be human and it should not be like a machine, therefore I support the hon. speakers who have preceded me when they say that the Ministry should not try to commit suicide so early.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is there any attempt being made by the Ministry to commit suicide?

An hon. Member: Apparently.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: It looks as though a very serious attempt has

been made—not only an attempt has been made, but for the last two years they have been doing it.

My second point deals with agricultural land. It is stated in the report that the number of allottees on a quasi-permanent basis was 4.77 lakhs. This number is besides the non-Punjab land owners or people from outside Punjab. The total property that has been allotted involves an area of 19 lakh acres or a little more than that. You will find that up to 31st December, 1960 permanent rights have been conferred on 2,69,474 persons involving an area of 19,57,711 standard acres. This leaves the number of allottees yet to be conferred permanent rights to the tune of 2,09,526 and an area of 4 lakh acres. I disagree with the report of the Ministry that certain people are not coming forward to have permanent allotments or that the remaining allottees are not available, because I know from personal knowledge where the hurdles are, where the bottlenecks are. I do have a certain amount of faith in the integrity of the Revenue Department of Punjab—there I do not join issue with the Minister. But he says that he wants to transfer the rights to them. But I would certainly say that the personnel of the Central Ministry who have been dealing with this problem very sympathetically should not be deprived of these rights. They should be allowed to deal with this question. When nearly 40 per cent of the people are yet to be conferred permanent rights, how can I accept the proposition that those people are not available for securing permanent rights.

This is, of course, besides the resettlement problem outside Punjab which pertains to 58000 displaced agricultural families and 5.63 lakh acres of land. Out of that up till now only 12,347 persons have been given the rights involving a small area and 46,000 people are yet to be given permanent rights. Still it is said that our work on the western wing is over. I am rather surprised. That is why I say

that the problem still in the hands of the Minister is so heavy, both in the matter of agricultural lands as well as evacuee property, that he should not try to dissolve it so soon.

My third point is about problems pending disposal with Pakistan. I differ with the hon. Member from Gurdaspur when he said that the hon. Minister is not doing anything. Of course, he has been trying to do very much. Only recently we had a conference about it, and I agree with him that there should be an overall solution to this problem. The main point is that the joint stock companies whose claims have been verified have not been paid anything. I am talking of their assets—of course, the bank accounts and other things are there besides. This is also a thing which should be given due attention. The joint stock companies also belonged to the displaced people. They have left properties and assets there. They are entitled to some compensation. If the hon. Minister is not in a position to get any compensation from Pakistan through negotiations, I would certainly say that this liability also should be taken in by the Government. I think the hon. Minister would be able to impress upon the Finance Ministry that these joint stock companies also are entitled to some compensation on the same ratio as is given to others. There is no reason why they should be deprived of it. I hope the hon. Minister would try to see that this is also settled.

My fourth point pertains to the services. I have got the highest appreciation for the work which the services have done. It would be a sad day indeed if they are thrown out of employment on the day of winding up of the Ministry. I am very glad, and I congratulate the Minister, that up till now all the retrenched personnel have been absorbed and he is running from door to door, from Ministry to Ministry, trying to get them absorbed. This problem should be viewed in the same manner as the rehabilitation problem, which is a human problem. I would submit that the Minister should see

that no person is thrown out of employment because of the closure of this Ministry and everyone is absorbed in some Ministry or other. In this connection, I have received some complaints. Here we must remember that it is not only a question of absorption. There is also the question of pensionary benefits. There are persons in the Ministry who have put in service for the last 13 years, who have put their heart and soul into it, who have contributed their sweat and brow to the service of this Ministry. If they are not made permanent and if the pensionary benefits are not given to them, it would be the most tragic thing indeed. Even the Pay Commission have recommended that nobody should remain temporary or quasi-permanent after he has put in a certain number of years.

14 hrs.

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

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: I request you to give me another five minutes. So, my submission in this connection is that something should be done for these people.

Then I come to the displaced public institutions. I am very glad to know from the figures that the Ministry have given aid to a large number of institutions. I find, for example, that Punjab have been given Rs. 194 lakhs, Uttar Pradesh Rs. 23 lakhs and Delhi Rs. 27 lakhs.

Ch. Ranbir Singh (Rohtak): Rs. 3 crores in all.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: I congratulate him on this. But I may submit to him that this is his liability. He would agree with me that these institutions have not been fully rehabilitated. I agree with the hon. Member from Gurdaspur, Professor Sharma, when he says that there should be a plan for the future also. If they are left in the lurch at this time that would be the end of it. In this connection, what I would submit is that

[Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadī]

there are Muslims also who have left large amounts of trust property in Punjab. As it is trust property, it has not been transferred at all. I would submit that they should be given to those who are in possession of them in a planned manner and that they should be permanently rehabilitated.

There is one point more, and it relates to the eastern wing. Comparisons are always very odious and they are more odious when they relate to sufferings. Therefore, it pains me extremely that the hon. Member, Shri Banerjee, while comparing the sufferings of East Bengal refugees, said that the West Pakistan refugees suffered less. I have the highest regard and sympathy for the East Bengal refugees and their sufferings. But I hope he will appreciate that the sufferings of the West Punjab refugees are not any the less. Immediately after the partition, they came out of West Pakistan in lakhs and lakhs, leaving behind all their belongings, and many of them were slaughtered in the way. Those who reached India did not have anything of their own, and they had to suffer for years to reach their present position. So, I would submit that there should not be any comparison between the two, though I have the greatest sympathy for the East Bengal refugees.

Then, giving doles is not a happy thing. I can say from my personal experience in Punjab that we tried to liquidate it at the earliest possible moment. We did not allow it to continue for more than a year and a half. We had no camps after a short time. Spending Rs. 48 crores on doles is the biggest mistake that the Ministry has made.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He should conclude now.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadī: I request you to give me two minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Those two minutes have already expired.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadī: Coming to Dandakaranya, my submission is that it is a national project, according to the policy laid down by the Ministry itself. It was started in a big way some years back. Its chief function would be to rehabilitate the displaced persons of East Pakistan. For this purpose, the first priority would be given to the East Bengal displaced persons who are at present in camps in West Bengal. That is the basic policy. But we now find from the figures that since October 1960 the total number of displaced persons that should have been sent from Camps in West Bengal should have been 5,400, whereas the number that has gone there is only 469. This shows that the response from West Bengal is very poor. When I put a question on this subject I was told that a large amount of money was invested on this project and many tractors are now lying idle. Since it is a national project, it should be treated as a national project and if East Bengal refugees are not willing to go there, the refugees from other States are ready and willing to go there and reclaim the land.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may resume his seat. We would not like him to go there.

श्री प० ल० बाबूपाल (बीकानेर—
रक्षित—प्रनुसूचित जातियाँ) : उपाध्यक्ष
महोदय, मैं पुनर्वास मंत्रालय की मांगों का
समर्पण करने और उस को बन्धवाद देने के
लिये लड़ा हुआ हूँ। मेरे कुछ पुराने साथी
शायद यह सोचेंगे कि यह तो हमेशा इस
मंत्रालय को कोसता आया है कि उस का काम
बहुत खराब है, लेकिन आज यह बन्धवाद
कैसे दे रहा है। दरअसल बात यह है कि जब
बख्शे को दूब नहीं मिलता है अपनी माँ के
स्तनों से तो वह ठुण्डे लगाया करता है और
जब दूब मिल जाता है तो वह अपनी जगह पर
धानन्द से लौट जाता है। इसी प्रकार कामबन्दु
रूपी भारत सरकार का स्तन रूपी पुनर्वास
जस से दूब मिलता था और

उस दूध को पी कर अब बछड़ा हो गया है और अब उसे दूध पीने की आवश्यकता नहीं रही है मुझे शायद और किसी जगह का एक्सपीरिएंस न हो, लेकिन राजस्थान के बारे में मैं दावे के साथ कह सकता हूँ कि भारत सरकार ने हमारे राजस्थान के बारे में जो काम किया है वह बहुत ही सराहनीय है। मैं समझता हूँ कि जिस प्रकार राजस्थान के अन्दर हरिजनों के लिये भारत सरकार ने जो कार्य किया है अगर उसी प्रकार से और प्रदेश की सरकारें भी करतीं तो जो दलित वर्ग के भाई पाकिस्तान से भाये हैं उन की समस्या काफी सुलझ जाती।

मुझे खुशी है कि हमारे बीकानेर के गंगानगर जिले के अन्दर लगभग चार हजार परिवार ऐसे हैं जिन के पास पाकिस्तान के अन्दर एक पैसे की प्रापर्टी नहीं थी, एक इंच उन के पास जमीन नहीं थी, ऐसे लोग थे जो इधर उधर ठोकरें खाते फिरते थे, पाकिस्तान में भिन्न प्रकार के खन्वे करते थे, लेकिन हमारी सरकार ने ऐसे लोगों को आबाद कर के एक महान् कार्य किया है। आज हमारे पुनर्वास मंत्रालय का जो इतना बड़ा यत्न था, वह समाप्त होने जा रहा है और शायद उस की पूर्ण प्राप्ति दे कर श्री लक्ष्मा साहब इस वर्ग की अब समाप्त करनी भी जा रहे हैं इतने बड़े कामों के अन्दर कुछ त्रुटियाँ तो होती ही हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि बहुत से लोग कुछ समस्याओं को ले कर सरकार के सम्बन्ध में अलग अलग रायें रख सकते हैं, लेकिन जैसा मैं ने कहा, हरिजनों के लिये जो कार्य हुआ है उस के लिये मैं सरकार का बहुत आभारी हूँ।

मेरी कोई विशेष डिमाण्ड नहीं है, लेकिन गंगानगर के अन्दर अमी मैं गया तो देखा कि लगभग १५० परिवार ऐसे हैं जिन्होंने किसी कारणवश समय के अन्दर अपनी किस्में भ्रदा नहीं की हैं। एक तो वहाँ पर लगभग हर तीसरे वर्ष अकाल पड़ने से और कुछ उन की समय पर पानी न मिलने से, कुछ समय पर साबन उपलब्ध न होने से वे अपनी जमीन पर अच्छी तरह से कायत नहीं कर पाते, इस लिये

उन की आर्थिक स्थिति बहुत खराब है। इस मंत्रालय की भी, मैं समझता हूँ, ज्यादा दिनों तक चलाना सरकार उपयुक्त नहीं समझती है। वे लोग समय पर अपनी किस्में नहीं भर सके इस लिये उन की जमीनें कैसल कर दी गईं, और उन जमीनों की सरकार किन्हीं दूसरे व्यक्तियों को भ्रलाट कर रही है। हमारे भारत की यह परम्परा रही है कि जिस को कुछ दिया उस से फिर वापस नहीं लिया। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह उन की नालायकी हो सकती है, उन की अकर्मण्यता हो सकती है कि इस प्रकार से निकम्मापन अपना कर बैठ गये, भालसी बन कर बैठ गये और किस्तों को देने की चेष्टा नहीं की, यह सोच कर कि शायद सरकार उन को माफ कर देगी। मैं इस में सरकार को दोष नहीं दूंगा, जो हमारे रिपयूजी भाई हैं उन्हीं को दोष दूंगा। फिर भी मेरा निवेदन है कि एक बार उन की और मौका दिया जाय। इस फैसले के होने के बाद जो जमीनों की कीमत की पहली किस्में हैं वे उन को भर देंगे, और उस के बाद वे बराबर किस्में भ्रदा करते रहेंगे। अगर वह न दे पायेंगे तो फिर मैं एक बार भी उन के बारे में नहीं कहूंगा और सरकार फिर उन को कैसल कर सकती है लेकिन एक बार मैं जरूर रिक्वेस्ट करूंगा कि कोई भाई हों, हरिजन हों या कोई और हों सब को जमीनें नौटा दी जायें और जो उन की जमीनें दूसरों को भ्रलाट की जा रही हैं वह न किया जाय।

इसके बाद मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। यह कोई बड़ा सबाल नहीं है बीकानेर राजस्थान का एक बड़ा नगर है। वहाँ पर अमी तक कोई हरिजन बस्ती नहीं बनायी गयी है जैसी कि और जगहों पर प्रायः बनायी है। बीकानेर में कमला नगर नाम की बस्ती बसायी गई है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि कुछ हरिजन भाई जो कि हमारे जैमाँ के घरों में रहते थे उनको उस बस्ती में बसने की सुविधा दी जाय। वे ४० से ५० परिवार होंगे। मैं वहाँ की

[श्री प० ल० बारपाल]

सिटी इम्प्रूवमेंट कमेटी का मेम्बर हूँ और मैं कोशिश करूंगा कि उनको वहाँ जमीन सस्ते दामों पर दिला दूँ। अगर उनके लिए छोटे मोटे मकान बनाकर सरकार उनको दे दे तो मैं बड़ा शुकुगुजार होऊंगा।

मेरे पड़ोसी प्रदेश पंजाब है और वहाँ पर जिला फिरोजपुर में कुछ लोग पाकिस्तान बनने के पहले भी मुसलमान भाइयों के मकानों में रहते हैं। अब वे मकान उन से वापस मांगे जा रहे हैं और उनको नीलाम कराया जा रहा है। उतनी ही कीमत वह भाई जो उन मकानों में रह रहे हैं देने के लिए तैयार हैं तो मेरा निवेदन है कि उन लोगों से उन मकानों को छुड़ाना ठीक नहीं है। अगर रिपयूजीज को देना हो तब तो दूसरी बात है क्योंकि सबसे पहले उनका हक है, लेकिन अगर ऐसा नहीं है तो उन लोगों से उन मकानों को न लिया जाये।

तो मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि मैं ने जो तीन सुझाव दिये हैं उन पर सरकार विचार करेगी। एक तो यह कि बीकानेर में ४०-५० हरिजन परिवारों की बस्ती बनाया, दूसरा गंगानगर में जिन लोगों की जमीन कैमिल की जा रही है उनको रोकना और तीसरे वे भाई जो पाकिस्तान गये हुए मुसलमान भाइयों के मकानों में बैठे हैं उनको उनमें से न हटाना।

मैं ने आप से पांच मिनट का समय मांगा था, इसलिए मैं उससे ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता। मैं पुनर्वासि मंत्री को तहेदिल ने धन्यवाद देता हूँ और मैं शुकु गुजार हूँ कि जो लघु मैं ने विस्थापितों की सेवा करने का बनाया था—दिल्ली में एक कानकरैम हुई थी, वह लघु करीब करीब संतोष-जनक रूप में पूरा हो गया है। इसके लिए मैं अपनी राजस्थान सरकार को और भारत सरकार को भी धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री (गुडगांव) :
उपाध्यक्ष जी, भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के लिए जो व्यक्ति अपने परिवारों को, अपने घरों को और अपनी जमीन जायदाद को छोड़ कर चले गये, उनके पुनर्वासि के सम्बन्ध में हमारी सरकार ने अब तक जो काम किया है वह उसका नैतिक कर्तव्य था और अपने इस नैतिक कर्तव्य को निभाने में सरकार के पुनर्वासि मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने और हमारे पुनर्वासि मंत्री ने जो प्रयत्न किया है उसके लिए वे साधुवाद के पात्र हैं। परन्तु मैं इसके साथ ही साथ अपने पुनर्वासि मंत्रालय को और विशेष रूप से पुनर्वासि मंत्री महोदय को आने वाले वर्ष के सम्बन्ध में कुछ आवश्यक सुझाव भी देना चाहता हूँ। इस रिपोर्ट में आपने लिखा है कि एक वर्ष के पश्चात आप इस मंत्रालय को समाप्त करने जा रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि जो आपके हाथों में इस समय उलझी हुई समस्याएँ हैं उनका इस मंत्रालय के समाप्त होने के पहले समाधान हो जाये ताकि आगे आने वाले कार्य को आप जिस किसी को भी सौंपें उसको कठिनाई न हो।

मैं अब से पहले अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्र फरीदाबाद के सम्बन्ध में एक समस्या आपके सामने उपस्थित करना चाहता हूँ। ग्यारह वर्ष भी मैं ने इस मंत्रालय की मांगों की चर्चा के समय इस प्रश्न को उठाया था। बीच में मैं मिला भी और पुनर्वासि मंत्री महोदय को मैं ने अनेक बार लिख कर भी भेजा है, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से उस समस्या का अभी तक समाधान नहीं हो पाया है। स्थिति यह है कि वहाँ जिन लोगों को आपने बसाया था और उस समय उनको जो आश्वासन दिये थे वे अभी तक पूरे नहीं किये गये हैं और यह केवल फरीदाबाद की ही बात नहीं है। आपने जो और भी बस्तियाँ बसायी हैं जैसे राजपुरा और हरितनापुर उनकी भी यही स्थिति है। उनको आपने बसाते समय आश्वासन दिया था कि वहाँ उनके रोजगार की इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था

की जायेगी कि वे लोग और उनके बच्चे अपना निर्वाह कर सकें परन्तु अभी तक उस प्राश्वसन को पूरा नहीं किया गया। जहाँ तक राजपुरा का सम्बन्ध है उसके सम्बन्ध में तो मुझे पूरी तरह से जानकारी है कि उसको इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया नहीं बनाया गया और उसकी आर्थिक समस्या का समाधान जितनी अपेक्षित मात्रा में होना चाहिए या वह नहीं हो पाया है।

जहाँ तक हस्तिनापुर का सम्बन्ध है मैं ने आप से ३० नवम्बर १९६० को एक प्रश्न पूछा था कि "क्या यह सच है कि हस्तिनापुर में बसाये गये ३०० परिवारों में से २०० परिवार नगर छोड़ कर किसी अन्य स्थान को चले गये हैं। यदि हाँ, तो २०० परिवारों के नगर छोड़ कर जाने के क्या कारण हैं" तो आपने स्वयं उत्तर दिया था कि इतने परिवार वहाँ बसाये गये थे और उनमें से इतने चले गये और आपने कहा था "अधिकतर परिवार रोजगार की सुविधाओं के अभाव के कारण ही नगर छोड़ कर चले गये हैं"। तो वहाँ भी रोजगार की पर्याप्त सुविधाएँ नहीं हैं।

फरीदाबाद के सम्बन्ध में भी इसी प्रकार की योजना थी कि जो विस्थापित परिवार वहाँ बसाये जायेंगे उनके लिए भी रोजगार की व्यवस्था अवश्य की जायेगी कि वे अपना और अपने बच्चों के निर्वाह की समस्या का समाधान कर सकें। परन्तु मुझे खेद के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि फरीदाबाद में जो इंडस्ट्रियाँ लगी हुई हैं उनमें विस्थापित भाइयों को उनके अनुपात के अनुसार स्थान नहीं मिला हुआ है। बहुत से कारखाने तो फरीदाबाद में ऐसे हैं कि जिनमें अनुपात तो दूर विस्थापितों की संख्या सर्वथा ही नगण्य है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि फरीदाबाद में जो चौथे नम्बर का वार्ड आपने छोड़ रखा है इसलिए कि वहाँ छोटे कुटीर उद्योग लगाये जायेंगे, उस स्थान में वे उद्योग लगाये जायें। आप कह सकते हैं कि यह काम तो वाणिज्य मंत्रालय का है। लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में मेरा निवेदन है कि आपका यह नैतिक कर्तव्य है कि आप वाणिज्य मंत्रालय से

कहें कि जब वहाँ इतनी बड़ी संख्या में विस्थापितों को बसाया गया है और एक बहुत बड़ा भू-भाग भी वहाँ पर गेटेज इंडस्ट्रीज को चालू करने के बिये छोड़ा गया है तो वहाँ पर वे उद्योग चालू किये जायें। आपने अपने प्रतिवेदन में लिखा है कि हमने सवा करोड़ रुपया १४२ छोटे उद्योग चलाने के लिए रखा है। लेकिन हम नहीं कह सकते कि वे उद्योग कहाँ चलाये जा रहे हैं। लेकिन जहाँ तक इन बस्तियों का प्रश्न है इनमें तो छोटे उद्योग लगाने की अत्यन्त आवश्यकता है ताकि वहाँ बसने वाले विस्थापितों को रोजगार मिल सके।

वहाँ तो स्थिति यह है कि जिन १३-१३ साल के छोटे छोटे बच्चों की आयु स्कूल जाकर अपना भविष्य बनाने की है वे प्रातःकाल मंगफली, सेमन बूस आदि लेकर अपने घरों से बेचने के लिए निकलते हैं और दिन भर सड़कों पर मारे मारे फिरते हैं और शाम को वापस आते हैं। आप उनके जीवन की कठिनाई को उनकी आँखों में देख सकते हैं। इन बच्चों का भविष्य बनाने के लिए भी मेरा सुझाव है कि जो आप पालीटेकनिकल स्कूल खोल रहे हैं उनमें से एक एक स्कूल इन विस्थापितों की बस्तियों में अवश्य खोला जाये। मुझे यह बात कहते हुए प्रसन्नता होती है कि जब मैं ने पीछे पुनर्वासि मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन किया कि जो तीन पालीटेकनिक स्कूल पंजाब में खोले जा रहे हैं उनमें से एक फरीदाबाद में अवश्य खोला जाये, तो यद्यपि उनका इस से सम्बन्ध नहीं था, लेकिन उन्होंने सम्बन्धित मंत्री से कहा और पंजाब गवर्नमेंट को भी कहा, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य फरीदाबाद का कि एक चतुर चालाक मंत्री इस स्कूल को उठाकर रिवाड़ी ले गये। और फरीदाबाद के विस्थापितों का मनते रह गये।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप अपने मंत्रालय की ओर से भविष्य में जो शिक्षा सम्बन्धी योजनाएँ कार्यान्वित करने जा रहे हैं उनमें यह अवश्य रखें कि फरीदाबाद, राजपुरा, हस्तिनापुर की तरह की बस्तियों में दूसरे मंत्रालयों से मिल कर एक एक पालीटेकनिक

[श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री]

स्कूल खोलने का प्रबन्ध करें। वहाँ के विस्थापितों को जिनको अभी तक अपनी आर्थिक अवस्था को सुधारने का अवसर नहीं मिला कम से कम उनको अपने बच्चों का भविष्य बनाने की सुविधा तो मिल सके। इसलिए इन बस्तियों में एक एक पालीटेकनिक स्कूल खोलने की व्यवस्था अवश्य की जाय।

दूसरी बात जो मैं फरीदाबाद के विस्थापितों के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूँ वह उनको मिले हुए घरों के बारे में है। उन लोगों ने मुझ को आंकड़े दिये हैं और मैं ने वे आपको भेजे थे कि जो घर १७०० में बनाये गये हैं उनके लिए उनसे कुल मिला कर २७०० रुपये मांगे जाते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त उस कीमत पर ब्याज भी लगाया जायेगा। यह सब मिलाकर ४२०० रुपये हो जायेगा। ये लोग आर्थिक दृष्टि से इतने कमजोर हैं कि वे इतनी रकम सुगमता से नहीं दे सकेंगे। मैं अपनी जानकारी के आधार पर यह सकता हूँ कि फरीदाबाद में ऐसे बितने ही घर हैं जिनमें दूसरे वक्त खाना नहीं बनता। तो आप देखें कि जिन लोगों की यह दयनीय अवस्था है कि जिनके यहाँ केवल एक बार दिन में खाना बनता है वे लोग १७०० के मकानों के लिए ४२०० रुपये कैसे दे सकेंगे। वे लोग मेरे पास आये हैं और मैं ने अनेक बार उनके आवेदन पत्र आपके पास भेजे हैं। बार बार आपके पास भेजते हुए संकोच भी होता है। परन्तु ये लोग बार बार आते हैं और चूँकि मैं इनका प्रतिनिधि हूँ, इसलिए मेरा यह नैतिक कर्तव्य हो जाता है कि मैं इनकी मांग को आपके सामने रखूँ।

इस सम्बन्ध में राज्य सभा में आध घंटे की चर्चा हुई थी जिसमें आपने कहा था कि भिन्नरट्टी के इस सम्बन्ध के कार्यक्रमों को और इन लोगों की शिकायतों को किसी तटस्थ व्यक्ति के सुपुर्ब कर दिया जाय और वह इन को देखें और आपने इस काम के लिए डा०

हृदयनाथ कुंजरू का नाम भी प्रस्तुत किया था। मैं ने उन लोगों को यह कहा कि इस विषय में सब से बड़ी कठिनाई यह है कि आप के यहाँ इतनी ज्यादा एसोसियेशन्स—संगठन बने हुए हैं कि यदि एक को संतुष्ट करेंगे, तो संभवतः दूसरा नहीं मानेगा, दूसरे को संतुष्ट करने का प्रयास किया जायेगा, तो तीसरा नहीं मानेगा, इस लिये आप सब संगठनों की ओर से इस सम्बन्ध में आवेदनपत्र लाइये, जोकि मैं पुनर्वास मंत्री महोदय को दूंगा और चूँकि उन्होंने अपनी ओर से इतना तटस्थ दृष्टिकोण अपनाया हुआ है, इसलिये सम्भव है कि इस समस्या का कोई समाधान निकल आये। इस के अनुसार वे लोग वहाँ की सब एसोसियेशन्स की ओर से सिवाय—उस एसोसियेशन को छोड़ कर, जो कि कम्यूनिस्ट पार्टी से प्रभावित है—एक आवेदन पत्र लाये और वह आवेदन पत्र उपस्थित कर दिया गया। उस आवेदनपत्र में उन लोगों ने यह आग्रह किया कि डा० हृदयनाथ कुंजरू और रेलवे के उपमंत्री, जनरल शाहजाद खान, इस समस्या का समाधान करें। लेकिन मैं समझ नहीं पाया हूँ कि पुनर्वास मंत्री महोदय ने उस बात को स्वीकार नहीं किया। मैं उन से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि अगले वर्ष यह मंत्रालय समाप्त हो जायेगा और इस सम्बन्ध में यह अन्तिम बहस है। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि पुनर्वास मंत्री इस बात पर विस्तार के साथ प्रयास डालें। क्योंकि वे लोग बहुत दुखी स्थिति में हैं और हम लोगों को हृदय से यह स्वीकार करना चाहिए कि हमारी भारतीय स्वाधीनता की प्राप्ति के परिणामस्वरूप जहाँ और जहाँ हमारे देश में आये, वहाँ उन में हमारे फ्रिन्डर के वह भाई भी हैं, जो कि वहाँ रेगिस्तान में जा कर बसे हैं और तेरह वर्ष के बाद भी इन योग्य नहीं हो पाये हैं कि वे अपने पावों पर खड़े हो सकें।

इस मंत्रालय की रिपोर्ट में यह भी लिखा हुआ है कि कबायली हलाकों के जितने भी

लोग बसे हुए हैं, यद्यपि उन के पास कागजात नहीं थे, जिन के आधार पर उन को हर्षाना या मुभावषा दिया जा सकता, लेकिन फिर भी मिनिस्ट्री ने यह रवैया अपनाया है कि उन को बाई हजार रुपये प्रति परिवार के हिसाब से दिये जायें। मैं ने इस सम्बन्ध में माननीय पुनर्वास मंत्री के सहयोगी, श्री नास्कर, से पूछना चाहा था, ताकि मैं इस बारे में निश्चित जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकूँ। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यदि इस में इशारा दीर और चित-राल से ग्राने वाले लोगों की तरफ है, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी और मंत्रालय को बन्ध-बाद देता हूँ कि जो लोग पिछले तेरह बर्षों से भटक रहे थे, लेकिन उन की समस्या का समाधान अभी तक नहीं हो पाया था, उन को सहायता देने के लिये यह व्यवस्था की गई है। लेकिन यदि यह संकेत किसी दूसरी ओर है, तो मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जहाँ और किसी के संबंध में मंत्रालय ने इतनी उदारता पूर्वक निर्णय लिया है, वहाँ इन लोगों के बारे में भी विचार किया जाय। वे लोग बड़ी असहाय स्थिति में हैं, इस लिये उन को कुछ सहायता देने के बारे में शीघ्र ही निश्चय किया जाय।

अन्त में मैं साजपतराय मार्केट के व्यापारियों, दुकानदारों के सम्बन्ध में कुछ निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। उन लोगों को अभी तक दुकानें नहीं मिली हैं। वे लोग अपने खोलों में हजारों रुपये का सामान रखते हैं, लेकिन शाम को जब वे ताला लगा कर घर जाते हैं, तो घर में उन का दिल बड़कता रहता है कि हमारा सामान रात में मुरझित रहेगा या नहीं। जब और व्यापारियों को दुकानें दी गई हैं और उन को बसाया गया है, तो जो शेष रह गये हैं, और जो अधिकारी हैं, उन को भी दुकानें दी जानी चाहिये, ताकि उन को भी सतोष हो सके, जैसे कि और उन व्यापारियों को है जिन्हें कि पक्की दुकानें मिल गई हैं।

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There are nineteen cut motions relating to the Demands under the Ministry of Rehabilitation which have been selected by hon. members to be moved. They may be moved provided they are otherwise in order.

Need for more publicity of the progress of Dandakaranya amongst the refugees of West Bengal

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Rehabilitation be reduced by Rs. 100." (143)

Need to start the sericultural cultivation in Dandakaranya

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Rehabilitation be reduced by Rs. 100." (144)

Need for enquiry as to proper rehabilitation of refugees sent to U.P.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Rehabilitation be reduced by Rs. 100." (145)

Need to rehabilitate refugees of West Bengal in industries

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Rehabilitation be reduced by Rs. 100." (146)

Need to give loans in lump sum

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Rehabilitation be reduced by Rs. 100." (147)

Need to inspect the small industries started by refugees in West Bengal

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Rehabilitation be reduced by Rs. 100." (148)

Need to guide and render help to refugees of West Bengal to develop the small industries

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Rehabilitation be reduced by Rs. 100." (149)

Need to absorb the retrenched employees of the Ministry of Rehabilitation

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Rehabilitation be reduced by Rs. 100." (150)

Need to continue the Ministry of Rehabilitation till all the Camps are closed

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Rehabilitation be reduced by Rs. 100." (151)

Failure to provide alternate employment to retrenched employees of the Ministry

Shri Vajpayee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Rehabilitation be reduced by Rs. 100." (1466)

Need to appoint a non-official committee to enquire into the rehabilitation affairs of the States concerned

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Expenditure on Displaced

Persons and Minorities be reduced by Rs. 100." (152)

Need to revise policy in regard to the charging of land price from the displaced persons who have constructed houses on nazul land in Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, Delhi

Shri Vajpayee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Expenditure on Displaced Persons and Minorities be reduced by Rs. 100." (1467)

Allotment of shops constructed in various Government employees' colonies

Shri Vajpayee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Expenditure on Displaced Persons and Minorities be reduced by Rs. 100." (1468)

Failure to settle displaced persons living in the Kingsway Camp since 1947

Shri Vajpayee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Expenditure on Displaced Persons and Minorities be reduced by Rs. 100." (1469)

Failure to provide houses on a no loss profit basis to displaced persons living in the Purana Qila

Shri Vajpayee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Expenditure on Displaced Persons and Minorities be reduced by Rs. 100." (1470)

Failure to register claims of displaced persons from Pak-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir

Shri Vajpayee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Expenditure on Displaced Persons and Minorities be reduced by Rs. 100." (1471)

Need to provide adequate relief to refugees from Pak-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir

Shri Vajpayee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Expenditure on Displaced Persons and Minorities be reduced by Rs. 100." (1472)

Failure to settle East Pakistan displaced persons

Shri Vajpayee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Expenditure on Displaced Persons and Minorities be reduced by Re. 100." (1473)

Failure of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation in implementing schemes undertaken.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Rehabilitation be reduced by Rs. 100." (153)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The cut motions are before the House.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal (Uluberia): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate for the people of West Bengal that while one refugee problem still remains to be solved, another refugee problem has been dumped on them and another is in the offing i.e., the Berubari refugee problem.

I want to know from the hon. Minister as to who is responsible for the rehabilitation of the Assam refugees. Is it the Rehabilitation Minister, or the hon. the Prime Minister, or the Assam Government, or the West Bengal Government, or the non-official emissary, Mr. Asoke Sen? We are unable to roam about in search of the real person for giving help for the rehabilitation of the Assam refugees.

Sir, first of all, it is my reading that the Assam Government even now is not very much willing to accept the Bengali refugees. There are some reasons which have convinced me of this. There was a dispute as to the number of refugees which the Assam Government would take. I do not know whether this dispute has been resolved, and what the latest position is. Secondly, Sir, the procedure to be followed is dilatory and cumbrous. There is the procedure of screening. I have received sheafs of screening papers, where persons who have not received any loans are shown as having received loans on the basis of which notices are being served on them. I wish to refer to only two such cases, for want of time. One is the case of Shri Niranjan Brahmachari and the other is the case of Shri Subhashini Bala Basu. What is the use of this screening? Persons who have not received a single farthing are shown as having received loans. There is no machinery to which these complaints can be lodged. This sort of screening is very defective.

Sir, my next point is that the Assam refugees are given Rs. 200 as grants in the beginning. This was stated by the hon. Minister even day before yesterday in reply to a question. But I can show him about fifty letters written by Assam refugees, wherein they say that they have not received a single farthing even after going back to Assam. They are given only one seer of *chiru*, one *poa* of *gur* and one rupee per day. This is given when the notice is served and Assam refugees have to go to their locality with the help of that. After going there they are expected to be given Rs. 200. But most of the refugees after going back to Assam have received nothing. This sort of advertising that Rs. 200 has been given to them and that still they are not going, is no good.

Regarding the loans which are being granted, they are being given in dribbles with the result that they can-

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not be utilised for rehabilitation purposes. I can mention the names of seventeen refugees who though they were sanctioned as much as Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 12,000 in fact received only Rs. 200 to Rs. 500. Five or six months have now passed and they have written so many applications to the different Ministries that it is difficult even to locate them. Nobody has cared to reply to these letters, not to speak of giving these loans. It is this sort of refugee rehabilitation which is going on in Assam. There has been great bungling as a result of which the Assam refugees are suffering to a great extent.

I would not like to refer to Goreswar Bazaar. Goreswar Bazaar was mainly populated by the Bengalee shop-keepers. After the people left Goreswar Bazaar, the lands which belonged to the P.W.D. were taken away and when after the disturbances the land was wanted, the Assam Government informed the Rehabilitation Ministry that that land belonged to the Railway Ministry. The Railway Ministry was asked by the Prime Minister himself I am told, and the Railway Minister has replied that they have no land and it belongs to the Assam Government. The whole land which belongs to the Assam Government, on which about four hundred shops of Bengalee refugees were situated, has not been given to them and they are not being rehabilitated for that reason in that area.

Another point I would like to submit is that of late force is being applied on the Assam refugees for leaving their camps. I would in this connection request the Rehabilitation Ministry to take the cooperation of the Assam Refugee associations. The refugees want to go; they do not want to remain in camps. But there is no sense of security, and if Government can entuse them and give that sense of security they are certainly agreeable to go immediately; because, they are not really very much fond of

these worst type of camps in which they are living.

Regarding doles I would request the hon. Minister to see that so long as proper screening is made and they are given proper help. Then at least Rs. 200 should be given to them after they go back, and unless that is done there is no question of serving a notice on them and stopping the dole or reducing that dole in the camps.

As regards their going back, I would request the hon. Minister even today to enquire whether it is not a fact that about seven or ten families who left for Assam on the notice of the West Bengal Government are still living outside the Gauhati station, because after their return they have not been given any rehabilitation grant by the Assam Government.

I would like to refer to another point regarding the rehabilitation of East Bengal refugees. Now we come to know that a large number of refugee families are being taken to U.P. In U.P., naturally, the refugee population is concentrated in the two districts of Naini Tal and Pilibhit. There are a lot of complaints from these refugee colonies. The main complaint is that after the refugees are sent to these places they have to wait for eight or nine months for rehabilitation. If the Dandakaranya project is prepared to receive these persons, why should so many refugee families be sent to U.P. where there are a lot of complaints? I think the hon. Minister should divert these refugees to Dandakaranya.

And lastly I would make this request to the hon. Minister, because he has a wonderful knack of shifting the responsibility from his own shoulders to the shoulders of others who are not accountable to us; that is the only reason for which he is shifting these things to the States and other departments so that none may be accountable to us in regard to

the problems of rehabilitation. I would therefore request the hon. Minister to help us, and I can give him an assurance that I can take ninety per cent of the Assam refugees to their places if he gives this assurance about their rehabilitation in Assam and stands security for them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Bimal Ghose. Five minutes.

Shri Bimal Ghose: I will finish within five or six minutes.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Sir, he might speak while sitting; he is not well.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, he can sit down and speak.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Thank you, Sir, it is not necessary. I will briefly refer to two or three points. A serious defect of the Rehabilitation Ministry or the approach of the Government to this problem of refugee rehabilitation appears to me to be this, that for some time now the emphasis is on winding up the Department, not on the problem of rehabilitating refugees. I will not say that this Department should be a permanent one. But let the Department say that the refugees will be rehabilitated and as soon as their rehabilitation is completed the Department will go out of existence. Then nobody will be sorry, and I am sure the hon. Member will be in position somewhere else. So I would request the hon. Minister, as many of my friends have said, not to commit Hara-kiri himself.

The second point is that before the refugee rehabilitation problem is completed, he should also consider the question of compensation to the East Bengal refugees. I am sorry that my hon. friend Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi is not here. He made a comparison between East Bengal refugees and West Pakistan refugees. I would not have made that comparison. Both have suffered and both should get compensation. Whoever gets a few rupees more, it is immaterial to me. At the problem remains that while

in West Pakistan there was this compensation which the refugees obtained, in East Pakistan, on account of a friction, the refugees have not got that. Something should be done in this respect.

Associated with this question is the rehabilitation of the employees in the Rehabilitation Department. When the Department is going out of existence, what is going to happen to them? The employees of the Rehabilitation Department are very much worried about their future. And I would like the hon. Minister to assure us that their future will also be looked after.

The third point is about Dandakaranya. I would ask the hon. Minister to be a little patient. The reason why the refugees have refused to go latterly has been this. We had also told the hon. Minister earlier that the first refugees who had gone there did not have a very happy experience, and it is the first batch of refugees who carried tales about Dandakaranya. I am sure, now that the conditions have improved and this fact gets known, the Bengali refugees will also be going. Therefore, I would like him to be a little more patient and give some more time. And before he accepts suggestions that others should go, he should consider the suggestion of my hon. friend Shri A. C. Guha that the partially rehabilitated refugees should be given an opportunity, not up to only 10 per cent, but to the extent that the partially rehabilitated refugees want to go.

Lastly, the Assam refugee problem has been referred to by my hon. friend Shri Aurobindo Ghosal and I do not want to dilate on it. I would like to know if the Berubari refugees have also been entrusted to the hon. Minister's care and, if so, what he is doing in that regard.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Sir, fourteen years ago this Ministry was created in the wake of partition.

[Shri Mehr Chand Khanna]

About ninety lakhs displaced persons left West Pakistan and East Pakistan and came over to India. About forty-eight lakhs came from West Pakistan and about forty-two lakhs from East Pakistan. During all these years we have passed through many stages, the stage of relief, then rehabilitation, and, in the case of displaced persons from West Pakistan, also compensation. About Rs. 400 crores from our own national revenues—we have not received a penny's aid from any other country or any world organisation—have been spent on the relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons. And in the case of the western region, compensation as far as urban evacuee property is concerned has been given to the tune of about Rs. 150 crores. This is made up of cash, allotment of houses and adjustment of public dues. Over and above that, we have allotted nearly 25 lakhs standard acres of land and about a lakh rural houses. At a rough estimate the value of these lands and houses may be in the vicinity of about another Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 120 crores.

So, Sir, you will see that large sums of money have been spent on the relief and rehabilitation and for a section of the population even in the payment of compensation. We have to see, after all these years, whether the particular purpose for which this Ministry was set up, namely to deal with the human problem of these unfortunate people who had to be taken out of their roots, from their hearths and homes, the lands of their forefathers, whether that problem has resolved and, if so, what remains to be resolved and whether for the residuary problem that there is today, the special Ministry that was created fourteen years ago should continue or not. That is the problem or that is the question which has been posed to me by practically every hon. Member. What was the problem? To what extent has it been resolved, and what remains to be resolved? For the residuary problem, do we still need a specialised Ministry? I shall try and

answer as fully as I can, these criticisms or these kind of observations, because I could see that as far as the Ministry is concerned, as far as the officers are concerned, including the Minister himself, there has been all round appreciation of the work that we have done. There was a time when I was being accused of saying 'We shall see that this Ministry never comes to an end'. But nobody is accusing us; today, the advice that has been given to me by every friend, whether from this side of the House or from the other side of the House is that I should not indulge in my suicide, in my *hara-kiri*, in my political debilitation, and that I should go slow. I appreciate all those kind sentiments.

I shall first take up the eastern region, because, for the last six years or so, I have spent a major part of my time there. As I have just told you, there are about 42 lakhs displaced persons in the eastern region; of them about 32 lakhs are in West Bengal and the remaining, namely about ten lakhs are in Assam, Tripura, Bihar and Orissa. As far as these four States are concerned—I am leaving out West Bengal—we have already given assistance to about 1,85,000 families in these four States, involving an expenditure of Rs. 60 crores. Now, the Rehabilitation Departments in all the four States that I have just mentioned have already been closed, but before the Departments were closed, I took care to see firstly that the State Governments were consulted, and secondly to find out what the residuary problem in those States was. The residuary problem was discussed with sympathy and consideration. I feel—and that has been my feeling for a very long time—that if my Government can give me Rs. 400 crores to spend on the relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons, I can certainly go to the Government and to my colleagues and ask for a few crores of rupees more. I would not myself like that this problem which has been tackled

all these years and on which such huge finances or such huge amounts of money have been spent, should, in the fag end of the life of this Ministry, be stunted or dwarfed or not properly attended to for want of a few more crores of rupees.

So, the residuary problem was fully discussed with the State Governments and whatever provision was required for meeting the residuary problem in those States has already been agreed to and provided for. Now, that would leave the problem of West Bengal.

As far as the problem of West Bengal is concerned, up till now, we have given rehabilitation assistance to 4,55,000 families. This is an addition to the 1,85,000 families that I have just mentioned in those four States, and the expenditure comes to about Rs. 130 crores.

The problem of Bengal, as has been rightly remarked by the gentleman who opened the debate and by my friend who followed him....

Shri Muhammed Elias (Howrah): The one is a gentleman and the other is a friend? Is it because he belongs to the Opposition?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The objection is that all are hon. Members here, no friends and no gentlemen.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: No gentlemen? I am very sorry. I apologise.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All Members here are to be addressed as hon. Members, and no distinction is to be made.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: They are not to be called gentlemen? Very well. I shall leave it at that.

The hon. Member Shri Prabhat Kar who initiated the debate and was followed by Shri A. C. Guha made two pointed observations. One was in relation to the campers, and the other

was in relation to the partially rehabilitated families within the State of West Bengal.

As far as the campers are concerned, today I have been accused, and I think I have been accused once before also, that I have allowed these unfortunate people to live in camps for a very long period and that proper action has not been taken in the matter either to rehabilitate them or to disperse them from the camps. I plead guilty to the charge, and I plead guilty to the charge on this account namely that these unfortunate people who came from East Pakistan came in a tattered and shattered condition. I saw them with my own eyes at some of the border stations. As many as 10,25,000 persons out of 42 lakhs persons had to be taken inside the camps.

When I took over this Ministry about six years ago, the number of campers then was round about 30,000 to 40,000. You would see, Sir, that it has been a question of clearing the camps and filling them. We keep on clearing the camps and rehabilitating the persons, but Pakistan kept on sending more people out of East Pakistan, and again filling my camps. I went to Bengal or to Calcutta with great hopes, but soon after my arrival, my friend from Pakistan—about which reference has been made by Shri D. C. Sharma already—sent out within two years, namely 1955 and 1956, as many as six lakhs of persons. Of them, over 50 per cent., nearly 53 per cent., found admissions in camps. The result was that my camp population which was about 30,000 to 40,000 only at that time immediately rose to about 3½ lakhs. Now, it can be said that perhaps proper measures have not been taken in the matter of their rehabilitation, that we have been soft with the State Governments, that perhaps we have not exercised the same amount of control over the establishments, as we should have done. In fact, our Estimates Committee has talked about it and said that our res-

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possibility does not finish with the sanction of a scheme or the sanction of a loan only but we have to see that that scheme is fully implemented. We are taking that action, and are doing all that is humanly possible. But 3½ lakhs persons had to be admitted in camps. Today, the number is only about 80,000. Even during this year, I mean 1960-61, 45,000 persons have left the camps.

Last year, unfortunately, the Dandakaranya scheme was discussed whether in Bengal or in this House in such a way that—I do not minimise my shortcomings; nor do I minimise my misfortunes—the result was that this scheme started with a very bad start. Till then, refugees were going to Dandakaranya in very large numbers, but, suddenly about this time last year, it was decided that till certain conditions were fulfilled in Dandakaranya, no refugees should go there. What I did was that I invited the Chief Minister of West Bengal along with his colleagues, I invited a large number of members of the West Bengal Assembly representing each group plus a large number of editors of newspapers, both from West Bengal and from Delhi, to go to Dandakaranya and see things for themselves. It was stated that it is a good scheme and it has great potentialities. The requests made by the Government of West Bengal were (1) that their Chief Secretary, like the Chief Secretaries of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, should be associated with the project, (2) that there should be a whole-time Chairman, and (3) that the project should be given a substantial amount of autonomy. All the three proposals were accepted. Even then, we found that the refugees were not moving to Dandakaranya. It was suggested in the meeting of the Chief Ministers of the three States, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, over which I presided in Delhi in September, that the voluntary system should be tried. I said, knowing from my past experience, that it was not going to bear any fruit, but

I should not object to it. Nothing happened, Sir. Then it was suggested that we should organise a 'Dandakaranya Week' and in that 'Dandakaranya Week', there should be lectures and we should tell the people what facilities they are going to get in Dandakaranya.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: By whom?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The Chairman should go there and explain to the people, the Chief Administrator should go and the Rehabilitation Minister of West Bengal would go. That was done and tried for full one week. Result again—nil.

Then a meeting was held between me and the Chief Minister of West Bengal in early December. On one side, we have already spent about Rs. 10 crores on the implementation of the Dandakaranya scheme, expenditure to the extent of Rs. 15 crores has already been accepted and my budget for this year is Rs. 7 crores. On the other, during the whole of 1960-61, though we have been spending in Dandakaranya at the rate of Rs. 2 lakhs a day, I have also been spending Rs. 1 lakh a day on the maintenance of camps in West Bengal; our expenditure on camps in West Bengal—we have no camps in any other State in India—last year was Rs. 3.15 crores; I asked the Chief Minister and Rehabilitation Minister of West Bengal as to what we are to do under the circumstances. If I am going to develop the Dandakaranya project, if I am going to have a big organisation there, what is the purpose thereof? It has cost us anything between Rs. 70—80 lakhs a year. I have purchased reclamation machinery to the value of Rs. 4½ crores. Foreign exchange to the extent of Rs. 2½ crores has been utilised in the purchase of that machinery. The number of Komatsu tractors that we purchased in 1959 was 58. The number of Komatsu tractors for which orders were placed last year is 78. The number of Caterpillar trac-

tors I have bought from America and put in Dandakaranya is another 45. And on top of it, we have got the old CTO tractors. We are going ahead with the development programme. Thousands of acres of land have already been reclaimed; others are in the process of reclamation. Villages after villages have been set up.

But, Sir, I had to ask the Chief Minister of West Bengal: what are we to do under the circumstances? This voluntary system does not seem to carry any weight with my friends in camps in West Bengal. I do not want to go into this aspect, whether it is a vested interest or a political interest. I am not concerned with that. I am only concerned with this aspect of the matter as to whether the Dandakaranya scheme is going to succeed or going to fail. Last year I was on the mat for it. There has not been even a little criticism of the Dandakaranya scheme this time. I am glad, and I am grateful to the House for it.

So a decision was taken that this could brook no further delay and notices shall have to be issued to the campers. This decision has been taken with the full concurrence and unanimity of support of the Government of West Bengal. We started issuing notices from January 1961. During the last three months, notices have been issued to about 5,000 families.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Reports speak of 1700 only.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: In the initial stage, the number was 1,700. During the months of February and March, notices have been issued to another 3,000 or 3,500 families.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: What was the period of the notice?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am coming to that.

It has been agreed that during this month notices shall be issued to an-

other 2,000 families, excluding the 1,000 families who are to go to U.P.

I might just say a word about U.P. Rehabilitation in U.P. has been of the highest order. Up till now, there has been a tremendous demand upon me, and in this case I believe my hon. friend, Shri S. M. Banerjee, will also agree with me....

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I agree.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: ...that the refugees from East Bengal do not wish to go to Dandakaranya and wish to go to U.P.

An Hon. Member: Let him refer to him as hon. Member Shri Banerjee.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Yes, my hon. friend from Kanpur.

We agree generally outside the House if not inside the House, but this time he will agree with me inside the House also.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sometimes we do agree inside the House also.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: It has been decided that notices to 8,000 families shall be issued till the end of April 1961. The total number of agriculturist families in camps in West Bengal is 16,000. So by the end of this month, notices would have been issued to 50 per cent. of the families. From the 1st of May onwards, notices shall be issued to 1,000 families every month, meaning thereby that the process of the issue of notices shall be completed by the 31st December 1961.

When I was coming to Delhi only a few days ago, I saw my friend, Shri Profulla Sen, and told him that generally questions are asked in Parliament at the time of the discussion of the Demands of my Ministry and I am going to be asked a pointed question: 'Is the history going to repeat itself?' This time, do we mean to be firm in the issue of these notices and the dispersal of these families from camps who refuse to go to

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Dandakaranya or U.P.?' He said: 'You have my authority to say that we shall deal with the matter firmly'.

Why are we doing that? For the simple reason that Dandakaranya today is a success. Large sums of money have been spent on Dandakaranya. I want Dandakaranya to succeed. I am prepared to defy my hon. friend, Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi, and some other hon. friends here and say that as long as I am the Rehabilitation Minister, the first charge on me shall be the rehabilitation of campers from West Bengal and the second one will be the advancement of the interests of the tribals there.

15 hrs.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: I asked what is the period of the notice.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am coming to that. Once these campers have been dispersed, then the question shall arise what should be the shape and the character of this Dandakaranya project. I am sure, if it is decided that every one can be taken there, then perhaps the Minister for Rehabilitation may not be in-charge of this project. But, I do feel that if the Dandakaranya project is to succeed, it must have man-power and if the man-power is to come from the camps in West Bengal, till that man-power comes, we cannot implement the scheme properly.

The period of notice is two months. Some notices have expired and according to the State Government, doles of 1500 families have already been stopped. In spite of this decision, in spite of these notices, in spite of this propaganda, the response from the camps in West Bengal is highly disappointing. During the last three months I do not think more than 200 to 250 families, in spite of these notices, have gone to Dandakaranya.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Have the doles been stopped in those cases?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Sir, I can assure the House that every possible effort shall be made, every persuasion that is humanly possible shall be availed of in asking the campers in West Bengal to go to Dandakaranya and if they do not go, we will be left with no option but to stop their doles. I am not using any compulsion. A friend of mine belonging to the Opposition party said only a few days ago in the Bengal Assembly, then repeated it in his paper, that the Government shall have to meet with dire consequences if these refugees are asked to go to Dandakaranya and doles stopped. My own feeling in the matter is, and I would like to tell the hon. friend of mine, that you are not a friend of the refugees, you are not a friend of the displaced persons. If you want to make these unfortunate people beggars and use them in your own political game, you are doing no service to humanity, you are doing no service to the displaced persons.

Now, I shall deal with partially rehabilitated families in West Bengal. I am not prepared to accept that their number is 20 lakhs. That would be a very high exaggeration even if it comes from Mr. Guha.

Shri A. C. Guba: Out of 20 lakhs rehabilitated, 50 or 60 per cent. will be partially rehabilitated.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Ten lakhs. I do concede that everyone in West Bengal has not been fully rehabilitated. Whatever the reasons may be—I need not go into them—whether it is the love of a Bengalee for West Bengal, whether it is my fault that I am not able to inculcate full sense of confidence in him, he has not gone outside West Bengal to the extent that we wanted him to go. And the result has been that in that State, which was partitioned unfortunately on account of the creation of Pakistan, two-thirds of the land went away to Pakistan, one-third came to West Bengal along with that

came over 30 lakhs displaced persons. There is a tremendous amount of strain on the land and the physical resources in West Bengal. There is unemployment. There is the highest density of population. On one hand I am told that we have failed in setting up of industries, and my hon. friend Mr. Prabhat Kar said that we have failed to provide employment in a problem State, on the other hand it is his Party that goes on trumpeting everyday that there is a lot of land available in West Bengal. West Bengal has reached a saturation point. There are no lands available in West Bengal and if you want these partially rehabilitated families....

Shri Muhammed Elias: Have you ever replied to the alternative proposal which has been given by the West Bengal Opposition members and which was also placed before this House several times? The alternative proposal was to reclaim land in South Bengal by which thousands and lakhs of refugees can be rehabilitated there. You have never replied to all those points.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am very thankful to my hon. friend Mr. Elias for kindly reminding me about those things. But, I do not propose to deal with them. I am only saying that the problem of the partially rehabilitated people must be tackled. For this what we have done is that we told the West Bengal Government, "Will you please assess your problem and let us have the details?" Only about one and a half months ago—I think, I am correct—a meeting was held at the level of the Secretaries where the residuary problem of the Government of West Bengal was discussed. We are asking for a little more information and after the information is received, I propose to discuss the problem of the partially rehabilitated families in West Bengal with the Chief Minister and the Rehabilitation Minister of West Bengal themselves. I want to go to them because if I have to prove my *bona fides* to this House, if I have to assure you

that the residuary problem is going to be tackled in an efficient manner by the State Government of West Bengal—there should be no difficulty in the flow of funds and the examination of the schemes—I cannot be accused of committing *hara-kiri* in haste. So, I wish to assure the House that in the next month or two I would be in a position to finalise the residuary problem in West Bengal after consultation at the highest level in West Bengal, that is, the Chief Minister of West Bengal. What the amount is going to be, it is very difficult for me to say. But, a rough idea that has been given to me is that it might be in the vicinity of about Rs. 40 to 50 crores. I have told you, Sir, and I go on repeating that the matter of the partially rehabilitated families in West Bengal shall be fully and properly examined.

Shri Prabhat Kar: What about industries?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As far as industries are concerned, I would give you the figures in brief. I would confine myself to West Bengal because my hon. friend, Mr. Prabhat Kar, conveniently ignored the other four States. The number of medium and cottage industries, set up by the Ministry, by the State Government of West Bengal and the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation is round about 80, involving an expenditure of about Rs. 5.68 crores, and they should provide employment to about 20,000 persons.

As far as employment is concerned, employment is being given through two specific sources: one is through the Employment Exchange and the figure is round about 58,000; the other is through training. We have trained nearly 40,000 persons up till now.

Shri Prabhat Kar: How many of the people trained in your training centres have been employed?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I could not give you the number; but 40,000 persons have been trained and it has cost us crores of rupees.

Shri Prabhat Kar: We have never complained about the expenditure on the part of Government. That is not the point. The point is, exactly how many persons have been really rehabilitated by providing employment?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: If you ask me whether I have a follow-up organisation to see if Shri Prabhat Kar after receiving training had been placed in life, I am sorry to say I have no follow-up organisation. But my duty is to provide the avenues of training and that has been done.

Shri P. N. Singh (Chandauli): To see that they get employment is not your job?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: My duty is to see that they get their stipends. My duty is to see that these training centres and production centres are fully equipped. If you ask me, 'Is it not part of your duty to have a follow-up organisation?' I would say, 'Yes'. But I may tell the House that I have to deal with 90 lakhs of displaced persons. Perhaps the population of the whole of the continent of Australia is much less than that of the refugee population with which this country was faced.

Now, another charge was levelled at my door by the first speaker. I am very hard pressed for time that I am issuing certificates. I am being most unkind to the displaced persons, though he read it and did say that the instructions were that each case should be considered on merits. I would be the last person to say that the displaced persons who have been rehabilitated should be again dehabilitated. That is not my intention. But, I have also to see that those persons who have received loans, if they are in a position to pay, must also pay. The suggestion of my friend, Shri

Guha, is a very very good one. Remit loans to the extent of Rs. 3,500 each. I wish he had got that idea when he was the Finance Minister himself. Anyhow it is better to be wiser after the event. That will solve my problem completely and I would not get all the bouquets and flowers that I am getting in West Bengal or Rajasthan or elsewhere. Once these loans are wiped off, I can assure you that even the opposition parties would take me out in a procession in the streets of Bengal. I have no doubt about it. But, I have to take the loans as loans and grants as grants. I would like to tell the House....

Shri Prabhat Kar: Why don't you create such a situation?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When he is to be taken out in a procession?

Shri Prabhat Kar: By the opposition parties.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am planning for Nigambodh Ghat.

The total advance is Rs. 54 crores.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has so many rescuers; he should not think of going that side.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: From the total of Rs. 53.5 crores advanced in the shape of loans in West Bengal, the loan that has fallen due is Rs. 25.02 crores. Only Rs. 25 crores or half the loan has fallen due. But, what has been the realisation? Rs. 1.22 crores; one-twenty-fifth part of Rs. 25 crores or about 4 per cent. That has been the total realisation in the whole State of West Bengal. And, in this, there are loans from the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation; and there is a loan of about a crore of rupees that has been given to the Transport organisation of West Bengal, a part of which has already been paid. Then, there may be certain recoveries from the industrialists. I do not know, out of this total of Rs. 1 crore, how much has been realised from the displaced persons in West Bengal who have been

helped to the extent of Rs. 130 crores and whose number is 4.55 lakh families.

I will deal, within a few minutes, with Assam and Berubari and then I will go over to West Pakistan.

Shri Prabhat Kar: On the point of certificates being issued and the auctions being made, so far as that is concerned, the loans should be paid by the persons who can pay. There is no question about it. But what would be the position of those refugees who are not in a position to pay?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Hundred per cent loss in loans and 100 per cent relief expenditure is also mine. My own feeling is—I hope I am wrong—that not much attempt is being made to realise the amount of loans.

Shri A. C. Guha: Why don't you write it off?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I accept your suggestion and that is a very good idea and I would take it to our new Finance Minister. I would also tell him that you were good enough to make this suggestion. I am not going to leave it here, because if he can agree that all the money that has been given in the shape of loans...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But Shri Guha has made that suggestion after he relinquished charge of the Finance Ministry. He should not make it now.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: He forgot it. He did not think about this suggestion before.

I was saying that I cannot accept the position that loans are not to be realised. But, I am, certainly, prepared to accept this position that in hard cases, every case should be considered on merits; and if a man is not in a position to pay, he should not be put to such a state of affairs that the rehabilitation that has taken place is completely destroyed.

Assam, I am sorry to say that my friend Shri Ghosal, either he was not here when I replied to that question the day before yesterday fully in Parliament or....

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: I was here.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Or, I am sorry to say....

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Even today he was reading it.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Or, I am sorry to say, he did not fully realise the implications of the replies I gave. In a few words I say that the total number of families in the camps in West Bengal is only 6,000. At one time the figure was 31,000 persons. Today the figure has come down to about 22,000 because they are in the process of going out. This is the total population of these campers who have come from Assam and have been lodged in the camps in West Bengal. That is point number 1. The second is that I have received back 5,600 forms having been duly verified by the Government of Assam.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Wrong information.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Out of this, the Government of Assam have accepted more than 5,000 as *bona fide* migrants. As regards those who are considered as ineligible, every form shall be scrutinised by a team of officers, one from my Ministry, one from the Government of West Bengal and one from the Government of Assam. The idea is to see that no unfortunate person who has already suffered on account of the unfortunate circumstances should suffer again. We are prepared to give him the benefit of doubt even if he makes a mistake, a little here or there. And, I would respectfully tell my friends like Shri Ghosal and others that they should not unnecessarily doubt the *bona fides* of the Government of Assam. If out of 5,600 forms they are

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prepared to accept as many as 5,000 as eligibles, it does not lie in our mouths to say that they are doing things which are not a credit to the Government of Assam.

Secondly, the going back of these campers from Bengal to Assam is the concern of the Government of West Bengal. In my discussions with the Chief Minister and the Rehabilitation Minister I have been told that they would like these persons to go back to Assam. Those who have to be rehabilitated should be given rehabilitation assistance by the Government of Assam and those who are to receive relief will be given that relief by the Government of India—plus their railway warrants and journey allowances and all that. (*Interruption*).

Notices are being served upon these families to leave at once. We do not want another batch of persons to be camping in the camps of West Bengal. And, tomorrow, if I survive the *hara-kiri* I may be told that I made another mistake in allowing these people to stay. I feel that it is in the interests of these unfortunate persons as well as in the interests of the Government of Assam that these persons should go back as quickly as possible.

Now, about 18,000 families were affected in toto. About 16,000 are those whose houses, shops and some of their property might have been burnt and looted. In the case of 14,000 the houses and shops have already been repaired. Now, in the case of Goreshwar, I hope I am making a correct statement and I am doing so on the basis of my talks with some of the Bengali-speaking people that I met in Gauhati and they represented every political party. I saw them before going to Shillong and I saw them after coming back from Shillong. The total number of shops burnt in Goreshwar is 60 and not 400. The occupants of 29 shops have already gone back to them. There now remains the question of about 31 shops. There is some dispute about the land

where the shops were first built but I have been told by the Chief Minister of Assam himself that he would like these people to come back to that very land. But there is some difficulty about that land. The land that has been offered as an alternate land is already squatted upon. So, the Chief Minister of Assam himself has volunteered to erect 31 shops and he gave that order in my very presence in Shillong. And the site itself is very near to that land. In fact it is on the main road. I am hoping that as far as Goreshwar is concerned this problem of the construction of the shops shall be resolved and the shops constructed soon. I am prepared to tell my friend Shri Ghosal, that after reading one of the dailies quoted here yesterday, I am going to take up the matter with the Chief Minister of Assam and ascertain whether the figure given in that paper which was quoted by Shri Ghosal is correct or whether the figure that was given to me by him and also by the Bengali-speaking people in Gauhati is correct. I shall look into the matter and if any further action is needed, that shall be taken. Now, Sir, I come to Berubari.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: There are Bengalis in Assam who were actually shifted to the various camps in Assam itself.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: There are no camps, as far as I know.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They are in Assam and they have to be rehabilitated. First of all the Assam Government promised to pay them Rs. 1,000. But I am told by a delegation which is here that Rs. 1,000 had been paid only in a few cases and the others had not been given anything. I want to know whether it is a fact. That is the fear in the minds of the people and they doubt whether they will be properly rehabilitated. It may be a genuine fear or it may be wrong.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I was in Shillong.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The delegation is here.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Some of the members of the delegation are, I believe, members of the Assam Assembly. I was there for three days. Not one Assam M.L.A. representing Silchar or Cachar came to see me. Two M.L.As. came to see me and their main request was for the setting up of a college. There are two valleys in Assam—Surmah Valley and the Brahmaputra Valley. The Surmah Valley, if not wholly occupied, if not substantially or predominantly occupied, by the Bengali-speaking people. The trouble arose in the Brahmaputra valley where the Bengalis were living in small, scattered parts all over the place. I have had talks with them. I may have gained a wrong impression; I am prepared to rectify my mistake, but I can assure my hon. friends opposite that the impression that I gained was that their relations were becoming normal. The sense of insecurity that was there is going or has gone and the Assam Government is doing its level best to rehabilitate them. There is some trouble at the ranks of the lower officials below. Otherwise even the top officials are giving their full co-operation. This is the impression that I gained and that is my own feeling in the matter too. If Shri Ghosal or Shri Banerjee can bring to me some of those friends who have come from Silchar or Cachar or those who are living in the Brahmaputra Valley, I shall see them with the greatest pleasure.

Now Berubari, and I am finished with the eastern region. Here again, I have had talks with the Chief Minister of West Bengal and the Rehabilitation Minister. According to our information, the total number of families that might be evicted may be round about 1000 or 1200; the total number of persons is likely to be not more than 5000.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: A survey is still going on.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: How the partition takes place or when the partition takes place or whether it will be vertical, or horizontal or zig-zag is not my concern. My concern is that when these 1200 or 100 families come from the part of the territory that remains with Pakistan to the part of the territory that will be India, proper arrangement should be made for their rehabilitation. Having learnt the lesson of the camps both in North Bengal and for those who have come from East Pakistan, we have taken one definite decision that no camps shall be opened. That is number one. Secondly, there shall be a proper census and screening of each family that comes from Berubari. Thirdly, the migration if it is unfortunately to take place, shall be confined to a specified period which should be the minimum. In the meanwhile, I have asked the State Government to formulate schemes for the rehabilitation, whether for settlement on land or in petty trade; those schemes must come to me as immediately as possible and I shall see that these schemes are sanctioned. I shall also see that these schemes are implemented as quickly as possible so that when these people come they go straight to their rehabilitation sites. Now, let me travel to the west side.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What about the value of their property? Are we going to pay them compensation?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now he has gone to the west from the east.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This was not answered by the Prime Minister.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As regards the west, I do not think I have much to say for the simple reason that the problem of rehabilitation in the western region was settled, resolved and tackled two or three years ago. After that we have not advanced any loan; we have not built any houses. Nothing of the nature of what is being done in the eastern region is being done in the

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western region now. The only problem that remained was the payment of compensation to the displaced persons from West Pakistan. The number of persons was about five lakhs; of them nearly 4.90 lakhs—if I go by the report it is 4.86 lakhs—have already been paid their compensation till the end of January 1961. Two months have elapsed since then. I have to pay compensation to another 10 or 15 thousand persons. There was a time when compensation was to be paid to five lakhs of persons; now it is only 10-15 thousands... (*Interruptions*). As regards the lands, the figures given by my hon. friend Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi, and my old comrade and colleague, are correct. But there is one thing. Out of 24 lakhs of standard acres, permanent rights have been given in the case of nearly 20 lakhs standard acres. But fifty per cent of the persons of these five lakhs have not come to us for their permanent rights. That is the position. Those who had to receive substantial holdings have already received the *sanads*. Now, 2½ lakh persons or 2 lakh persons have to receive only 4-5 lakh standard acres, maybe about half an acre or one acre or 1½ acres each. Perhaps they have not bothered to come to us. I may tell you the reasons; perhaps you know it yourself too. Now the land has been in their possession for the last ten years; it is in their name; they are paying land revenue; they are utilising the produce. They are the owners of that land. Indeed the giving of a *sanad* to them is only for mental satisfaction. They are already the owners of that land. If they want to get the *sanads*, they are welcome to come to us. If they do not want them, well, they are the owners of the land, and they have got the substantial right to mortgage, sell or transfer the land to anybody. So, the question does not arise.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: They cannot be transferred unless they have the *sanads*.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I would request my hon. friend to ask them to come to me. He admits that the *sanads* in the case of 20 lakh acres have already been given to nearly three lakh persons. If the others are not coming, I am not going to keep the establishment alive for them in Jullundur. They can come and see me even now. They are at liberty to do so. This Ministry, even now, will go on for a few months more, and if anybody wants to come to take the *sanads*, I shall see that they are given to them. But to suit their convenience, this Ministry is not going to be kept alive.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Permanent rights can also be given to them *in absentia*. It is not necessary that it should be put on record that the rights should be conferred to them permanently.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I shall have that matter examined. I am very grateful to him for the suggestion. If by merely sitting in my office, permanent rights can be conferred on them, I shall do it by a notification.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: The only hurdle is about the public dues under the Act. If they are not there, then the rights can be conferred. There is nothing standing in the way.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am very grateful to him. The position is that of a man who owes me for the past ten years and it has taken ten years to realise from him. If he had not received anything from me he would have come. So, the public dues appear to be more, and he is avoiding me! I shall go into the matter, but I am prepared to give an undertaking to this House that if those people come to me, I shall see that the *sanadas* are given to them. If any simple procedure can be devised by which the *sanads* can be given to them, that procedure shall also be examined.

Then there was the question of negotiations with Pakistan. These are the only two questions which remain in regard to western Pakistan. There is no other question.

An Hon. Member: What about public institutions?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am coming to that. About my negotiations with Pakistan, I still claim that I have a large number of friends there. Some unfortunately have been murdered. Some others had to leave Pakistan. Some of them are no longer in political power.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: None of them committed *Harakiri*!

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: None as yet! The position is that in spite of our best efforts, we have failed to get any satisfactory response from Pakistan. I must admit that. Firstly, this problem can be divided into two parts: one is the difference between the evacuee assets left in Pakistan and the difference in the evacuee assets left in India. We have left evacuee assets to the extent of Rs. 500 crores. The evacuee assets in India are round about Rs. 100 crores. There is a difference of Rs. 400 crores. In spite of my visits to Pakistan—and they had been frequent—the Pakistan Government has never cared to even discuss this question.

The other part of the question is the implementation of the movable properties agreement. There too, I have done my best. Two meetings have been held lately. We have never been told 'No'. But we went about holding meetings. We went to Pindi; they came here; we went to Karachi and they came to Delhi. They feasted us; we feasted them. We issued communiques, but in a nutshell, hardly anything comes out of it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Then why did you go there?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have not lost all hopes as yet. I am trying

to do my level best. Even during the fag-end of this Ministry, if anything can be done, I shall see that every honest and possible effort is made. At the suggestion of my hon. friend there, I propose to write to my opposite number in Pakistan and request him to see if anything can be done in this matter. If my going to Pakistan shall help matters, I am prepared to do it.

Shri Muhammed Elias: What have the Opposition Members to do with this?

Some Hon. Members: He said, "opposite number".

Shri Muhammed Elias: I am sorry.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: My hon. friend Shri Muhammed Elias is very sensitive, he is allergic to me. I like him so much. He comes to me many times in Calcutta. We talk things over, and he gets the things done but in the House he is very allergic to me. I do not know why.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: After some time, likes also begin to repel each other! He said, "opposite number" and not "Opposition Member".

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I shall now go back to the eastern region for one minute, because it is very important. As you know, a charge was levelled against me to the effect that nothing has been done in the case of Muslims who have come back from Pakistan or in the case of Muslims who were displaced and are within the State of West Bengal. The position is that 12,808 applications were received from those Muslims who had gone away to Pakistan for the restoration of their holdings. In 12,699 cases restoration has been ordered and might have taken place. And only 109 cases remain out of 12,808.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: No actual restoration; only there is the order.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The second point is that of those whose properties were taken—all the Hindus and Muslims—and occupied by the displaced persons, the number of such properties is 1,775 in all—the number of Muslim property is 834 and that of the Hindus, 941. The number of displaced persons living in these properties is 19,000—5,000 in Muslim houses and 14,000 in Hindu houses. It is a very big problem. But I do feel and I honestly concede that if a man's house has been taken, either I should give him the clear possession of the house or he should be given at least what he is entitled to, namely, compensation should be given to him. We cannot allow this state of affairs to continue indefinitely. So, in this matter too, a meeting was held with the Bengal Government. I think there were two or three meetings with the Chief Minister of West Bengal who also made a statement in the Assembly there only the other day that we are looking into this question. Our idea, at the moment, is that if alternative accommodation cannot be provided for these 19,000 displaced persons, the best course possible for us would be this. If the value of these properties is reasonable and the properties have not completely outlived their life—we propose to acquire all these properties and pay compensation to the owners, both Hindus and Muslims.

I have already taken a lot of time, but a number of points were made by hon. Members about the Western region. I feel I have no right to proceed further, though I would like to go on and refer to those points, if you like.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no question of my liking but he can refer to them within five or ten minutes.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I will try. I will refer to some of those points briefly in passing. My hon. friend from Delhi referred to one thing, namely the payment of grants to the

emigrants from Jammu and Kashmir. We have invited the declaration forms; at one time the number was round about 30,000. I think we have received back about 20,000 or 25,000 forms. Action has already been taken in about 9,000 cases and about 6,000 cases were sent to the Pay and Accounts Officer. About 2,000 or 3,000 have come back. The others are in process of coming back, and the payment has started. I shall try my level best to see that all these cases are disposed of within the next six months.

Shri Balraj Madhok: What about the 20,000 or 25,000 people for whom payment has to be made yet?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: My hon. friend has come to this House for the first time today. I would like him to meet me sometime outside the House. We will go into all these questions. All these questions have been discussed. I only wish to tell him for his information that there are such things as Compensation Rules, Compensation Act, etc.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Meeting outside the House?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is nothing bad about it.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: He comes to see me outside the House so often. Because he belongs to the Jan Sangh there, why should he feel fidgety about it? To me he is as good a Member as anybody else. He represents New Delhi, and in matters regarding Delhi he wants certain difficulties which he has in mind to be removed, I shall certainly try and help him. I can only say that I had the misfortune of not listening to his election speech. But I listened to his speech today, I thought he was repeating his election speech.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We must show him some respect.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am sorry.

Shri Balraj Madhok: He is a very senior Member of the House; he should know better than myself.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have already pleaded on his behalf; he need not pursue it further.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am sorry that it has been taken in a bad sense; I did not mean it. He has come to the House for the first time and he deserves all consideration, courtesy and regard. In fact, I have invited him to come and meet me and I am prepared to discuss with him all questions relating to Delhi. I did not mean to belittle him in any way; I hope he will forgive me.

श्री प्र० म० तारिक : मुझे मिनिस्टर साहब से एक बात पूछनी है। जम्मू काश्मीर का जिक्र करते हुए धानरेबल मेम्बर, श्री मधोक ने कहा कि वहां जो रुपया तकसीम किया जाता है, वह सही तरीके से तकसीम नहीं किया जाता है। मैं वजीर साहब से जानना चाहता हूं कि इस सिलसिले में सही पोजीशन क्या है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि क्या यह सही नहीं है कि काश्मीर में जितना रीहबिलिटे-शन होता है, वह सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के मशविरों से होता है, जिन लोगों को जायवाद दी जाती है, वह सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के मशविरों से दी जाती है और इस बारे में हर छः महीने के बाद कॉर्फेस होती है? मैं वजीर साहब से बरखास्त करूंगा कि वह इस मामले पर रौखनी डालें।

[श्री अ० - ایم طارق - معصوم]

مستمر صاحب سے ایک بات پوچھلی ہے - جسوں کشمیر کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے انریبل ممبر شری مدھوک نے کہا ہے کہ وہاں جو روپیہ تقسیم کیا جاتا ہے وہ معصوم طریقے سے تقسیم نہیں کیا جاتا ہے - میں وزیر صاحب سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس سلسلے میں معصوم پوزیشن کیا ہے -

دوسری بات یہ ہے کہ کہا یہ معصوم نہیں ہے کہ کشمیر میں جتنا روپیہ تقسیم ہوتا ہے وہ سہولتوں گورنمنٹ کے مشورے سے ہوتا ہے - جن لوگوں کو جالداد دی جاتی ہے وہ سہولتوں گورنمنٹ کے مشورے سے دی جاتی ہے اور اس بارے میں ہر چہرہ مہلے کے بعد کانفرنس ہوتی ہے - میں وزیر صاحب سے درخواست کروں گا کہ وہ اس معاملے پر روشنی ڈالیں -

उपाध्यक्ष महाराज : वजीर साहब ने कहा है कि यह सच्ची बात है और इस लिये उन्होंने मधोक साहब से इस्तफा की है कि वह उन से बाहर मिल लें। यही बात वह तारिक साहब से भी कहें और वे भी उन्हें इकट्ठे उन से मिल लें।

श्री प्र० म० तारिक : उन्होंने कहा कि वहां पर पैसा सही तरीके से खर्च नहीं होता है। मैं इस बारे में वजीर साहब से जानना चाहता हूं।

[श्री अ० - ایم طارق - انہوں نے]

کہا کہ وہاں جو روپیہ تقسیم طریقے سے خرچ نہیں ہوتا ہے - میں اس بارے میں وزیر صاحب سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں -

श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना : मैं काश्मीर के बारे में इतना प्रश्न कर चुं कि जहां तक उन लोगों का ताल्लुक है, जिन को कि हम ने ग्रान्ट देनी है और जिनकी तादाद २५ से ३० हजार है—और चन्द एक करोड़ रुपया उन को मिलेगा—उन की जिम्मेदारी मेरी है, वह मामला मेरे महकमे का है और उस का काश्मीर गवर्नमेंट से कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है।

जहां तक परिणामियों की प्रावदकारी का सवाल है, चाहे वे जम्मू में हों, चाहे वे श्रीनगर में हों, चाहे व कदूधा में हों, किसी भी

[श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना]

जगह है, उस की जिम्मेदारी मेरे ऊपर है, लेकिन मैं अपनी जिम्मेदारी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की मार्फत पूरी करता हूँ। यह कायदा है। मैं खुद जाता हूँ और देखता हूँ। अगर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट में त्रुटियाँ हैं, तो मुझ में भी हैं। मैं अपनी जिम्मेदारी से सुबकदोश नहीं हो सकता।

As regards the Purana Quila people, this question had been before the House a number of times. The total number of families involved is 689. Out of them, 239 families have already been given plots or tenements and they have left Purana Qila. Another 450 families have also been allotted plots. The arrangement was, the word of honour was, that "after these plots are given to us, we shall vacate the Purana Qila". But I am sorry to say that they have not stuck to their promise and their word of honour. Action is being taken against them. Even after alternative accommodation has been made available to them, if they still refuse to leave, I shall be left with no option, but to evict them.

Shri Balraj Madhok: Where will they go for money for building huts on the open plots?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: They can go to the small housing scheme, to which the hon. Member himself referred.

Shri Balraj Madhok: You want to remove them from Purana Qila to open plots where they cannot live.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I shall see that they are removed.

Shri Shobba Ram: What will be the fate of those people who are not in a position to pay the price of the land? If they fail to pay the price of land, will they continue to be in possession of the land?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Is he talking of people in Rajasthan? I am talking of Purana Qila.

Shri Shobba Ram: On a point of further clarification, I wanted to know about the people of Rajasthan in Alwar and Bharatpur districts.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He will move down to Rajasthan after this

श्री प्रभात कार : भग्नी वे पुराने किले में हैं, जब राजस्थान जायेंगे, तों देखेंगे।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : पुराने किले के बाद पहले फरीदाबाद आयेगा।

Shri M. B. Thakore (Patan): so many people from Sind (Pakistan) have come and settled in Gujarat and other places. Nothing is said about those refugees.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The problem of Faridabad can be divided into two heads: one is about employment and the other is about the sale of houses. As regards employment according to our information and the survey we made sometime back, the total number of families which have been settled in Faridabad is round about 5,000 and odd. Amongst them, the number of employable adults is 6,000. Out of them, 2500 have found employment in Government service, semi-government bodies, professions, trades, etc. Over 3000 have found employment in the industries. That will make a total of 5500, out of 6000 persons who are employable. Not only that 2400 or 2500 outsiders have also come to Faridabad and are doing work in the industries. Up till now about 52 industries have been established in Faridabad. I cannot say offhand what is the expenditure. It is likely to be Rs. 3 crores or Rs. 4 crores; may be even more.

What I was trying to say was, if 2400 persons from outside can come and get employment in Faridabad in

these industries, there can be no difficulty for the remaining few hundreds if they want to come and seek employment.

15.47 hrs.

[DR. SUSHILA NAYAR in the Chair]

Secondly, I come to the question of the price of the house. You will be interested to know that the question of the price has been before this House and the other House and there have been questions after questions. The price of a house in Faridabad is Rs. 2700 inclusive of the price of the land. At one time the Ministry made a wrong calculation and assessed the price at Rs. 2600. We are sticking to that price. If my friend, Shri Prakash Vir Shastri, does not wish to pay the price today, and wants a period of 30 years to pay the price, he has to pay interest. If he pays the price cash down today, he need not pay interest. Out of these 4000 or 5000 houses, more than 50 per cent have already been sold at the price of Rs. 2600. Others can do likewise and not pay any interest. But if they want to pay the price in 30 years on hire-purchase basis, I am afraid the interest has to be paid. When I was not trusted, I invited Shri H. N. Kunzru, who was at one time Chairman of the board. I asked him to go into this question, but he declined my request. Then, those people went to the highest in the land, I mean the Prime Minister of India. He was asked to look into the matter.

The Prime Minister discussed the matter with me at length. He also sent for those persons. He told them that they have not paid their arrears for the last 10 years. The arrears alone come to about Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs. I had given them the concession that instead of paying the arrears at one stroke, they can pay one month rent and one month arrear and I will take the arrears over another period of ten years. The Prime Minister has given them the further concession that instead of paying the arrears in 10 years, they

might pay the arrears within the next 20 years, which will be co-terminus with the unexpired period of the lease, because 10 years have passed and another 20 years remain. In this way, instead of paying Rs. 24 per mensem to become the owner of the house, it would be round about Rs. 18.

There is one submission I want to make to the House. If those persons do not wish to become owners of this property, why should they become owners? Let them remain as tenants. After all, in our country there are millions and millions of people who are not owners and who are tenants. Is it essential that every refugee who comes from Pakistan, whether he owned any property there or not, whether he is entitled to any compensation or not, must become the owner of a house in India, not at his own expense but at the expense of somebody else? So I wish to tell my hon. friend Shri Prakash Vir Shastri, that if he is a real friend he should advise them not to become owners of the property. If they cannot pay, let them not pay, let them remain as tenants, and under the compensation rules they have been given the protection over a period of two years. After that the normal rent laws of the State shall apply. They are in Punjab. There are thousands of people in Punjab who are living as tenants. If they are to be evicted they will be evicted as anybody else who does not pay. But my advice to them is that if they are not in a position to pay they should remain as tenants and not become owners. If they feel that in their case no interest is going to be charged, I can only say that let them not have any false hopes. If they feel that when 50 per cent have purchased houses at Rs. 2600 each, they be given at Rs. 1700 or Rs. 1800, I can tell them straightaway, because I am their friend, that I do not want them to live in any false hopes or wrong hopes.

Before I conclude, Sir, I would just like to sum up.

Shri Shobha Ram: What about my point?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Rajasthan?

Shri M. B. Thakore: Gujarat also.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As regards Rajasthan, this question has been before us since a long time. The number of persons who had been allotted lands for rehabilitation purposes outside the land allotment scheme of Punjab and other States and who were entitled to rehabilitation is 58,000. Of them, round about 30,000 are in Rajasthan and the remaining 28,000 are in other States like Punjab and U.P. In Rajasthan itself, in the districts of Alwar and Bharatpur there are about 20,000 families and the remaining 10,000 are in Ganganagar. These lands were allotted to them in the early stages about 10 acres each. They were given loans worth about Rs. 1200 or Rs. 1000—I do not remember the correct figure. Then the question arose under the compensation scheme whether they can become owners of the land. According to our scheme the period of payment or repayment was about seven or eight years. The first instalment was 20 per cent and the balance was to be paid in seven equated instalments. Knowing their condition and fully realising their needs we decided that in the case of these land allottees—58,000 of them—the period of repayment should be extended from 8 years to 15 years. The second thing we did was that instead of realising 20 per cent in the first instalment they should pay only 10 per cent and the balance 80 per cent over a period of 14 years. The third thing we did for them was that in respect of the food loans which had been given to them in the early stages at the rate of about Rs. 250 involving a total expenditure I think of round about Rs. 30 lakhs or Rs. 40 lakhs—I think the exact figure is Rs. 35 lakhs; I am talking from memory—that money should be re-

mitted. So the loan was brought down from about Rs. 1,150 to Rs. 900, the period was extended and the first instalment was reduced to 10 per cent from 20 per cent. That happened some five to seven years ago. The House will be surprised to know that in spite of all these concessions my friends in Alwar and Bharatpur have not paid a single penny, though my other friends in Ganganagar—10,000 of them—which is represented by my hon. friend Shri Barupal, have paid. I think out of these 10,000 there may be a hundred or two hundred who have still to pay. The rest of them have paid. So in the same State on one side payments are being made and on the other side payments are not being made.

Shri Shobha Ram: That is not my point.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am coming to your point. Now, what should be our attitude in regard to these persons? In the meanwhile what has happened is this, that no payments have been made over all these years, not even the loans. My friend has accepted that these loans have not been paid. The price of land according to a rough calculation is about Rs. 4 crores. The amount of loans may be round about Rs. 2 crores. Not a penny has been realised, as far as I know, from the residents of Alwar and Bharatpur or the land allottees of Alwar and Bharatpur in regard to repayment of loans.

Now, as regards land revenue it was put at the rate of one rupee to the State Government and one rupee to us. The State Government at one time made a statement that they will charge only Rs. 1-4-0 and not Rs. 2 and I was told that they will realise full one rupee from these land allottees and the Government of India will be paid only four annas. I told the State Government to make it half and half. When they were going to realise Rs. 1-4-0, I asked them to make it Rs. 0-10-0 each. They did not agree and said that they were not going to

give up the land revenue, they will realise it in full and we will be paid only four annas. There also I agreed.

Now, Madam, beyond that I do not wish to go. I will give you my reasons. During the last few days some of my colleagues and hon. friends had been to see the Prime Minister and they have brought this matter to his notice. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan came to see me two days ago. We also had a long discussion, and it has been decided that this matter shall be discussed in the very near future at the level of the Prime Minister of India, the Finance Minister of India, the Rehabilitation Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Rajasthan who shall also be invited to that meeting. The note that I shall submit to the Prime Minister—a copy of it—shall also be sent to the Chief Minister of Rajasthan well in advance so that all these points are fully thrashed out and a decision taken. This is what we have done. I do not want that any injustice should be caused to those people. But it is also very hard for me to accept that in the same State one section of the population should be asked to pay—they have paid—and the other section of the population should be asked not to pay. It will be very difficult for me to defend my position as Rehabilitation Minister, because I am as much the Rehabilitation Minister of those settled in Ganganagar as of those settled in Alwar and Bharatpur.

Shri Shobha Ram: My point has not yet been replied. I want to know whether the principle that is being applied to the refugees in Faridabad, that those who do not want to become owners will be allowed to remain as tenants, will be applied to the displaced persons in Rajasthan. What about those who do not want to become owners in Rajasthan? What shall be their status? Will they be allowed to remain as tenants?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: That is one of the main points stated in the representation which is before the Prime Minister.

Shri Shobha Ram: What is your stand?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: My stand is this.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister cannot give you his stand here when the matter is to be discussed at a very high level.

Shri Shobha Ram: Two years back, he sent a letter to us.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member should realise that the time is running short. The Demands relating to the other Ministry have to be taken up. The hon. Minister has already said that the matter is to be discussed at a very high level, at the Prime Minister's level. He has also said that he cannot add anything to what he has said.

Shri Shobha Ram: I am not referring to that representation. Two years back, he wrote a letter to us saying that those refugees who will not be acquiring ownership rights will be continued in their position as tenants and they will not be evicted. Does he stand by it?

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. Will the hon. Member resume his seat? Let the hon. Minister proceed with his reply because the Demands relating to the other Ministry have to be taken up.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I now come back to the point....

श्री शोभा राम : मुझे जवाब नहीं मिला ।

16 hrs.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: What about the displaced public institutions?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I shall do my level best for them. What more can I say? We have given them no compensation for their losses in Pakistan and if I can do something, with more funds to see the institutions come to a fruitful end, my hon. friends shall not find me lagging.

I started by posing a question to myself and to the House, and the question was this, whether the circumstances which necessitated the creation of this Ministry 14 years ago still exist and, if so, to what extent and whether a whole-time Ministry is required to deal with that aspect of the problem. I have fully explained my view-point about the eastern region. My position *vis-a-vis* Bihar, Orissa, Assam and Tripura and my problem *vis-a-vis* West Bengal which is confined to two aspects; one is about camps and the other is about partially rehabilitated. About these two points too, I made the position of my Ministry abundantly clear.

As far as the western region is concerned, apart from my negotiations with Pakistan, about which I myself have not got much hopes, as I shall be living in this world and I shall not be committing *harakiri* or suicide, in the words of my hon. friend, till about this time next year, I shall do my level best if any solution can be found. But the closure of the Ministry should not create a wrong impression in their minds. I feel it is in the interests of the displaced persons that this Ministry should not be continued any longer and this year, 1961-62 should be the final year of this Ministry. We have come to the end of our work now, longer and this year, 1961-62 should be fully integrated into the life of the country. This question of separateness has been there for the last 14 years and it has done tremendous harm; whether it is a small section of the population here or a bigger section of the population in some other region, this has been the unfortunate result of this Ministry. It was needed, it was required, to deal with a special problem. What we propose to do

now is that after transferring the work to the other permanent Ministries of the Government of India—it is my own feeling in the matter; the matter is still to go to the Cabinet; the matter has to go before the Cabinet; it will not be right on my part to make an announcement, a definite announcement when it shall be made—if the viewpoint of the Rehabilitation Minister is taken into consideration, I feel the time has come when this Ministry should be closed, by the end of this financial year, 1961-62.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: What we propose to do is to create a special cell, a directorate if I may call it so; and the refugee problem, whatever it may be, whether of the western or eastern region, will be dealt with by that directorate under a separate Ministry of the Government of India, whichever that Ministry may be. The Dandakaranya project can also go to that Ministry. I hope by that time my friends from East Pakistan would have gone to that area and the suggestion of Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi shall be taken into consideration when it is really treated as a national project and the doors of Dandakaranya are thrown open to every section of the Indian population.

Mr. Chairman: Does any hon. Member wish to press any of his cut motions? I find that no hon. Member wants to press any of his cut motions. So, I shall put all of them to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the order paper, 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, 1962, in respect of the heads of

demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 74, 75 and 130 relating to the Ministry of Rehabilitation."

The motion was adopted.

16.05 hrs.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Chairman: The House will now take up the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

DEMAND NO. 86—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 64,12,000 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, 1962, in respect of 'Ministry of Transport and Communications'."

DEMAND NO. 87—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,68,29,000 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, 1962, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

DEMAND NO. 88—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DIVIDENDS TO GENERAL REVENUES AND APPROPRIATION TO RESERVE FUNDS

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,60,37,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of pay-

ment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Posts and Telegraphs Dividends to General Revenues and Appropriation to Reserve Funds'."

DEMAND NO. 89—MERCANTILE MARINE

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 69,98,000 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, 1962, in respect of 'Mercantile Marine'."

DEMAND NO. 90—LIGHT-HOUSES AND LIGHT-SHIPS

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,38,00,000 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, 1962, in respect of 'Light-houses and Light-ships'."

DEMAND NO. 91—METEOROLOGY

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,83,42,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

DEMAND NO. 92—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,33,88,000 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, 1962, in respect of 'Overseas Communications Service'."