

feel that at the present day prices, for replacement of the old assets, our contribution of Rs. 45 crores is not adequate, and I am thinking whether we should not increase it further. As a matter of fact, at the time of the preparation of the Budget, I was examining whether we cannot increase this contribution from Rs. 45 crores to Rs. 50 crores. But whenever we feel that it is necessary to increase the contribution to the depreciation fund—in any prudent business management, it is necessary to have adequate and reasonable contribution to the depreciation fund—we will approach the House for increasing it. But I feel that at least in the last year of the Second Five Year Plan, we may have to contribute Rs. 60 crores to the depreciation fund.

I have only this much to say, Sir

Mr. Speaker: I have received a letter from Dr. Menon that he will speak on the Railway Appropriation Bill, on behalf of his party. I am sorry I cannot permit him to speak, as under Rule 218(5), no specific points are raised in that letter. The intimation has been noted.

I will put the consideration motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1957-58 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

Mr. Speaker: Now clause-by-clause consideration—

The question is:

"That clauses 1, 2 and 3, the Schedule, the Enacting Formula

and the Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 the Schedule the Enacting Formula and Long Title were added to the Bill.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I move

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is, "That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

\*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.  
MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up discussion of the Demands for Grants Nos. 76, 77 and 125 relating to the Ministry of Rehabilitation. As the House is aware, 8 hours have been allotted for the Demands of this Ministry.

There are a number of cut motions to these Demands. Hon. Members may hand over at the Table within 15 minutes the numbers of the selected cut motions which they proposed to move. I shall treat them as moved, if the Members in whose names those cut motions stand are present in the House and the motions are otherwise in order. The time-limit for speeches will, as usual, be 15 minutes for the Members including movers of cut motions and 20 to 30 minutes if necessary, for Leaders of Groups.

DEMAND No. 76—MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,52,000 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, 1958, in respect of 'Ministry of Rehabilitation'."

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President

**DEMAND NO 77—EXPENDITURE ON  
DISPLACED PERSONS**

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 13,12,65,000 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, 1958, in respect of 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' "

**DEMAND NO 145—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF  
THE MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION**

**Mr. Speaker.** Motion moved

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 14,00,00,000 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, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Rehabilitation' "

**Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat)** Mr Speaker, Sir, it is with a mixed feeling that I am standing up to speak on this subject. The House is in a peculiar position and also the Minister in charge as regards the money to be allotted or sanctioned by the House to this Ministry. Every year, this House has been sanctioning Rs 25 or 30 or 40 crores, huge amounts of money, and almost the entire amount is passed over to the State Governments on which the hon Minister has hardly any control. He cannot account for or explain how the expenses are being incurred and what is being done. I have every sympathy for the hon Minister. He is accountable to this House, but he has no control over the funds that this House is going to sanction for him. Ministry.

During the last ten<sup>4</sup> years, this National Government has done many development works and has achieved quite a considerable success in many departments. In rehabilitation also, if we look at the west, I think we can claim that this Government has done

something deserving, of praise and credit. But, when we look towards the rehabilitation of East Bengal refugees, we find a sad story, a tale of human suffering, unmitigated human suffering and waste of huge amounts of money. If you will kindly allow me to look into the past, a few years ago, in this House, up to 1952 or 1953, I used to raise this question of East Bengal refugees frequently. On one occasion, the then Minister of Rehabilitation Shri A P Jain gave me a reply that he would have to enquire into these things to get the correct state of affairs. Then, the Fact Finding Enquiry Committee was set up by the Government.

It was not independent enquiry committee. It was composed of officials, one belonging to the Rehabilitation Ministry of the State Government, that is, the West Bengal Government, one belonging to the Rehabilitation Ministry of the Central Government and one from the Statistical Institute of India, simply to look into the statistical side. If I ask the hon Minister to refer to that report, I hope he will not say that that would be digging into the buried past. No. Because, the past has its continuity even now. The mistakes and the defects pointed out in that enquiry have not yet been rectified. They have been continuing. The Committee has categorically stated in spite of the fact that the Committee was composed of officials who were in charge of

**Shri Bimal Ghose (Barrackpore):** Which Committee?

**A. C. Guha:** The Fact Finding Committee.

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** That is not a published report.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** It is a published report.

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** The Minister's report is published.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** The Fact Finding Committee's report is published. It was pointed out that there was lack

of planning. There was wrong planning, there was mismanagement, bungling and also, I should say, there was corruption. Those colonies which started with bad planning have been carrying the legacy of the past and these things have not been rectified.

I shall just refer to one colony which will be typical. This is the colony called Churni near Ranaghat for betel leaf growers. Betel leaf cultivation is intensive cultivation. Each family was given two bighas of land, that is, less than two-thirds of an acre. That was quite sufficient for a betel leaf-growing family. They are called baruji families. The condition was that for two years they would be given water free of any charge. During these two years, they are not given the necessary loans or even the land so that they could not start cultivation of betel leaf. When the loan was given in instalments, they ate it up and the final instalment was given some time after two years. By the end of two years, water was withheld from them. Even now, after 5 or 7 years from that date, there a pump is lying idle and you can also see some barrels of crude oil lying and rotting. They cannot use the land and they won't be allowed to use the water. These families have been starving or doing day labourer's work. They have not been able to grow even a single betel leaf in the colony. That is the way they have developed the colonies.

Then, it has been stated that some colonies supposed to be urban colonies were set up. These have been set up in completely rural areas where there cannot be any urban amenities. They cannot develop any urban colony in such environments. Nothing has been done to rectify that aspect. There was complete lack of economic rehabilitation. Even for an agricultural family, agricultural land has to be given. For an urban family, some industry has to be set up. To the artisan families, there must be scope for development of small-scale industries. Nothing was done.

In this annual report, you will find a long list of industrial schemes. These are carrots kept dangling before the eyes of these refugees for the last 2½ years. I think I have something to do with the initiation of these industrial schemes. But, I am sorry to admit that nothing practical has been done. Some of the schemes have materialised, but not in the rehabilitation centres. Some may have materialised in Asansol or in some other industrial areas. But, none of the schemes which were more important, which were to start industrial units in the rehabilitation centres or in rehabilitation colonies, nothing has yet been done except one small industry in Habra which is now employing about 60 or 70 people where the population would be about 50,000 or more than that. That is the position. Then, all along, the loans or grants that were given were given in instalments. Even now, I think that though it is stated that that policy has been changed, yet that is the practice even now. I shall come to that point later.

In reply to a question of mine in 1952, Shri A. P. Jain said:

"So far as the Centre is concerned no conditions have been laid down as to whether a loan should be given all at once or in instalments. If the State Government considers it proper to give the loan in one lump sum, it gives it in that manner. Whenever it considers it necessary to give it in more than one instalment, it gives the loan in more than one instalment."

Then, I asked:

"Since when have these instructions been issued to the State Government?"

to which Shri A. P. Jain replied:

"From the very beginning."

But yet the loans were given to the refugees, spread in instalments paid over two or three years. Can you, Sir, conceive of a rural people build-

[Shri A. C. Guha]

ing a house with Rs 500—that is the amount allotted for house-building loans—and getting the loan in two or three years' time, that is, Rs 50 now, Rs 50 after another six months, Rs 50 after yet another six months, and so on? In this way, no house can be built, nor can a refugee or anybody else set up a profession or trade or industry or anything like that when even this small loan is given in instalments paid over a period of two or three years, as was the case with the Barujivi colony which I mentioned a little while ago. Even now, those things have not been rectified.

I want to know from the Minister what he is going to do with those colonies which have started with such a bad legacy, and that legacy is now continuing with them. I want to know how the Minister is going to remodel those colonies, review the whole scheme and almost start afresh.

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna) Can the hon. Member give one or two instances where even now loans are being given in instalments?

Shri A. C. Guha I shall come to them later.

Shrimati Renu Chkravartty (Basirhat) They are not given at all.

Shri A. C. Guha: Much has been said in Government reports about desertion. I am sorry the Minister has published a book, at page 43 of which it is stated

"The rural rehabilitation problem was further complicated by the marked reluctance of displaced agriculturists from East Pakistan to go to other parts of the country where land might, perhaps, be made available. It is this reluctance which explains desertions which have taken place from displaced agriculturists."

With this mental reservation, this Government have been moving in the matter of the rehabilitation of the East Bengal refugees.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Say, our Government

Shri A. C. Guha: I emphatically protest against this statement, which, I think, should not have been published in a report like this, because the refugees are not here to repudiate it. This kind of undeserved calumny should not have been indulged in at least by the Minister in charge of the Rehabilitation Ministry.

Desertions cannot prove that the refugees do not want to be rehabilitated outside Bengal or in a particular area. Desertions simply prove the bad planning, the mismanagement and the total failure of Government as regards administration and rehabilitation measures in particular area. There have been desertions in Bengal also, in certain schemes of Bengal there have been desertions to the tune of 55 per cent. In one colony, there were desertions of the order of 95 per cent, and that was in Bengal. That does not mean that the refugees did not like to be rehabilitated in that area or in West Bengal. It simply means that the Government's scheme for those areas or for those colonies was completely defective. They had made no proper provision for the rehabilitation of the refugees, and so, the refugees ran away from those areas.

If desertion should be taken as a criterion for making this undeserved statement about the East Bengal refugees, that they do not like to go outside West Bengal, then may I ask the Minister to say how many desertions have taken place from the Andamans rehabilitation colony? I think there has practically been none; the desertion may be just of the order of two or three or four per cent. Then, there have been rehabilitation schemes in Uttar Pradesh also in the Terai area, which is far off from Bengal; moreover, that area is not very similar to the accustomed area of East Bengal. Yet, I do not think there have been any large-scale desertions from the Terai area. Even from the

now notorious Bettiah, there has not been any desertion; there has been no desertion from the Bettiah rehabilitation colony; whatever desertions there have been have been only from the Bettiah camp. I shall presently come to the question why desertions have taken place in camps like the Bettiah camp.

So, it should not be stated that the East Bengal refugees did not like to go outside Bengal. They have gone to the Andamans, for instance. I plead with the Minister that the scheme to send East Bengal refugees to the Andamans should be expedited, and the number should be increased. But the Minister has pleaded his inability. I think in this matter I should ask this House to take a somewhat broader view. It should not be allowed to leave an impression at least in Bengal that there is some suspicion in the mind of the Central Government about the Bengalis, so that they do not want the Andamans to be inhabited by the Bengalis, if not exclusively, even predominantly. I make this statement with all the responsibility of being a Member of the Party in power, and I plead that the Minister of Rehabilitation may move the Home Ministry to see that the Andamans scheme is expedited, so that a large number of the East Bengal refugees may be sent to the Andamans. I do not want that the Andamans should be an exclusive colony of the East Bengal refugees, I do not mind if the other States also send their people there. But let the scheme for sending the East Bengal refugees be expedited. In this matter, there should not be any mental reservation in the mind of the Central Government as to the future trouble that might grow if the Andamans were to be inhabited primarily or predominantly by the East Bengal refugees.

**Shri B. S. Murthy (Kakinada—Reserved—Sch. Castes):** The Madrasas are denied facilities of going and rehabilitating themselves in the Andamans. Almost all the people who are there now belong to Madras.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I do not mind other States also sending their people there. They should also go there. But my only point is that the East Bengal refugees should be sent in larger numbers; I am not putting a ban on people from other States going there.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** My Ministry has nothing to do with the colonisation scheme in the Andamans. This is a scheme of the Ministry of Home Affairs, and people are sent from all parts of India to the Andamans, including the displaced persons from East Pakistan who have come to Bengal. They are not being sent as displaced persons. There is a quota which is allotted to the Government of West Bengal, and that quota, primarily, if not exclusively, is being used for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons there. As I have already explained to the hon. Member in private, the time when the Demands for Grants relating to the Home Ministry are taken up would be the proper occasion for raising this point, because the Andamans colonisation scheme is administratively not under the control of my Ministry.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I know that that was why I stated that he should take up this with the Home Ministry and see that scheme for sending East Bengal refugees to the Andamans may be expedited, and the number may be increased. When I am discussing the problem of rehabilitation, I think I am quite in order in suggesting that wherever there may be scope for rehabilitation, avenues for rehabilitating these people should be explored. And the Andamans is one of the places where rehabilitation of East Bengal refugees has succeeded. So, that experiment should be given further trial, and a greater number of refugees should be sent there for rehabilitation. Moreover, since there is joint responsibility of Government, if anything is to be taken up with another Ministry it is for this Minister to take it up.

Last time I put so many unstarred questions simply to elicit some infor-

[Shri A C Guha]

mation. The hon Minister has' re-  
 pired for all of them that the informa-  
 tion is being collected I know that if  
 I sit with him, all the information is  
 available with him and he can give  
 it in half a minute But technically  
 he is handicapped He cannot give it  
 unless he gets the necessary informa-  
 tion from the State Governments But  
 I have been able to gather some of  
 these informations from the reports

You will be surprised to know that  
 out of Rs 83 crores spent in West  
 Bengal only Rs 38 crores have been  
 spent on rehabilitation and the remain-  
 ing amount has been spent on relief  
 or some educational grants and other  
 things So you can see that just  
 about 45 per cent of the total amount  
 has been spent on rehabilitation and  
 the remaining has gone into useless  
 expenditure Out of this amount,  
 about Rs 45 or Rs 46 crores have  
 been spent on relief or some other  
 grants I can say that every year  
 they have been purchasing about  
 Rs 1,20,00,000 worth of tent. About  
 five years ago, I pleaded with them  
 that the tent system should be abo-  
 lished and whatever be the number,  
 they may put them in some hutments  
 which would be cheaper and more  
 comfortable But still they have been  
 purchasing tents, last year, the value  
 of the purchase was about  
 Rs 1,20,00,000

Then in camps they give doles and  
 the per capita expenditure is about  
 Rs 22 or Rs 24 per month That  
 comes to about Rs. 8 crores annually  
 only in West Bengal These doles are  
 given sometimes in cash and some-  
 times in dry dole—ration supply The  
 result is that a higher cost is involv-  
 ed in supplying rice and the refugees  
 are also not satisfied with the quality  
 of rice and other foodstuffs supplied  
 There is always trouble about this

I do not know why the hon. Minis-  
 ter has been allowing this. In some  
 camps, he supplies cash dole, and in  
 some dry dole This means greater

expenditure and also creates greater  
 troubles

Then I come to the training scheme  
 I think the fact-finding committee also  
 made some adverse remarks on the  
 training scheme Only a few days  
 back, I got two letters from Habra,  
 one of the biggest refugee townships—  
 or in fact the biggest—in Bengal The  
 number of persons trained there from  
 1951 to 1957 was about 2000

Mr. Speaker: I would advise Mem-  
 bers belonging to the same party who  
 wish to take part to divide the sub-  
 jects among themselves If one hon  
 Member disposes of all subjects from  
 A to Z, that will consume all the time

Shri A. C. Guha: From the Bengal  
 side from the Congress Benches, there  
 may not be many

Mr Speaker. Shri Barman is there,  
 Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri is there.

Shri A C. Guha: They will have  
 their own subjects

Mr. Speaker The work may be dis-  
 tributed amongst them so that each  
 may specialise in a particular subject  
 If each Member independently goes  
 on speaking on every aspect of it, the  
 same thing will be said again and  
 there won't be time also If amongst  
 party Members there is not this co-  
 operation how can I assist every  
 Member of a party?

Shri A. C. Guha: For this training  
 Rs 25 per month is given to every  
 trainee In six years, they have train-  
 ed about 2,000 persons After training,  
 each trainee would get a loan of  
 Rs 750 to start his own business or he  
 will secure some job Out of the 2,000  
 who have been trained, only 123 have  
 been engaged in some job and only  
 200 have got loans 121 have got loans  
 in instalments spread over a period of  
 two to three years.

The second letter says that the ins-  
 talment may be spread over two

years and in the meantime, the refugees eat up the money. They cannot start any business.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** Is he talking of the past? I would only request him to give one or two instances relating to the present.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** This is the present.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** No, he is talking of the past.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** This is not past. This is about the present.

I would like to refer to the position in Sealdah station. Only three days ago the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* published a vivid picture of Sealdah station. 4,000 refugees are lying there, some with forged migration certificates and some with no certificates. Migration has been practically stopped. Government do not give any certificate. This is in violation of the pledge given by the Prime Minister in 1950. Then he categorically stated: "We cannot say 'no' to them or refuse to give them help. They stand in need of help; if they are in trouble, they look to this friendship and relationship between the people of the two sides".

But that migration has now practically been stopped. What do the people do? They purchase forged certificates paying Rs. 100, Rs. 150 and Rs. 200, and when they come at the border, they are pushed back. They are not allowed to enter West Bengal. It is a question of human suffering. What does this mean? You should try to realise it. They have sold their houses and all their belongings and they have come upto the border. Then they are pushed back. Where will they go? The Government there is not the Government of India. It is not like Muslims of India who went away, have come back and have even been rehabilitated by the Government. But it is Pakistan. When they go back, there is no place for them, no relief for them.

So I appeal to this Ministry and the Minister. The Minister is also in charge of minority affairs. This pushing back of migrants should be stopped. Whoever may come, should, within our limited resources, be given succour and help. If West Bengal has reached saturation point, send them to some other places. I do not mind it. I have never objected to the Dandakaranya or Andamans scheme or any other scheme. But they should not be pushed back.

As regards the Dandakaranya scheme, the Minister has said in the paper circulated that it will come into effect only two three years hence. In the meantime, he has stopped all relief and rehabilitation in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. What will happen to those who are coming?

With these few words, I would appeal to the Ministry to take humane considerations. I hope Government will also consider the human suffering involved in this matter and take adequate steps.

**Shri M. Elias (Howrah):** The refugee problem is one of the vital problems of our country. It is one of the most important and complicated problems facing the State of West Bengal. Therefore, it needs more and more attention and effort to be solved.

We are always agreed in co-operating with the Government in solving this, one of the vital problems of the day. But we are sorry to mention that most of the plans which Government are taking are going to fail. Wherever refugees are being sent outside West Bengal, they are deserting and returning back to West Bengal.

Recently, a very prominent citizen of Andamans, Shri Ratnam, said in a press conference in Calcutta that of the 8,000 refugees who have been sent to Andamans for rehabilitation, only 2,000 have been rehabilitated. If Andamans were Bettiah, by this time the rest of the refugees would have

[Shri M. Elias]

come back. We should not forget why the refugees of Bettiah deserted Bettiah. The reason is the delay of rehabilitation there. It is true that some people have misused this opportunity. But we should not forget the main reason which is the delay in rehabilitation.

The refugee problem is not being tackled on the basis of a well-thought out plan. Now Government is taking up the Dandakaranya scheme. But what is the opinion of different prominent citizens of our country about this? Recently, the Secretary of the Orissa Congress Parliamentary party said that Rs. 5 crores going to be spent to build some of the colonies on the Orissa portion of the scheme are going to be misused and it would be a failure. In this way crores of rupees are going to be misused and Government is not paying proper attention to this planning.

My hon. friend Shri Guha just now said that we are not objecting to send the refugees from West Bengal outside West Bengal. I also agree. But without proper effort to build the economy of West Bengal, no refugee should be sent outside West Bengal.

Government is saying that West Bengal has reached saturation point. From what facts has Government come to this conclusion? As far as I know there is no expert committee report on this matter and we do not agree with the opinion of Government that West Bengal has reached saturation point. May we ask that if West Bengal has reached saturation point, then, what would be the fate of the future population of West Bengal? The population of West Bengal at present is 212 lakhs and it is increasing at the rate of 12½ per cent. for 10 years. That means, after 10 years, the population of West Bengal would be 265 lakhs. How will Government provide for the increase of 53 lakhs? The answer on behalf of

Government might be that by that time they will finish 3 Five Year Plans. If they can finish three Five Year Plans by that time, why do we not concentrate that thing over a shorter period? Why do we not spend Rs. 100 crores, the money which is going to be drained off in the name of the development of Dandakaranya, to revive the economy of West Bengal? West Bengal has got vast possibilities to absorb all these refugees.

I want to give some concrete examples and suggestions for Government's consideration. It is the long-standing demand of the people of West Bengal to develop the Sunderban area. Once this Sunderban area was thickly populated and prosperous. From the accounts of Magasthanes even in 300 B.C. and 150 A.D. this area was thickly populated. Due to the drainage of the river, due to natural calamity, due to the attacks of pirates and others, this area became depopulated and the people of those areas came to the inner parts of West Bengal. If proper bunds are built, if the dried up rivers and canals are developed, and if other methods are adopted, then, this area can be developed. It is an area of 3,000 sq. miles and a large number of refugees can be accommodated in this area.

I want to mention also the famous names of Engineer Mr. Reynolds, the historian Nalinikanta Bhattacharya and also the well known geographer, Mr. Thomas, who also gave this opinion that this area can be developed and can absorb many people.

The other suggestion that I have for the consideration of Government is the reclamation of land from the sea. With science at our disposal, if we properly utilise it, we can reclaim land from the sea. As many hon. Members of this House know, 66 per cent. of the land which is constituting the State of Netherlands, has been conquered from the sea. We can also utilise science and reclaim the land

from Bay of Bengal near the Sunderbans area. There are many marshy lands which stretch from West Dinajpur right down to 24-Parganas district. According to the official version of the West Bengal Government, there are 8,29,000 acres of fallow land in West Bengal, particularly near Calcutta. The Government is doing nothing to utilise this land which can provide accommodation for many refugees. There are many dry and arid lands which we cannot use due to lack of irrigational facilities and they are becoming barren. They are in Birbhum and Bankura districts and also some parts of Midnapur and Burdwan districts. If proper irrigational system is developed there and tubewells are sunk—it has become more and more easy now due to the DVC power—over that area, the lands can be developed and many refugees can be rehabilitated.

In entire West Bengal there are many sources of industry. In his Budget speech in 1955-56, Shri B C Roy, the Chief Minister of West Bengal himself admitted that West Bengal was once the land of cottage industry. But, it is a matter of regret that the Government is doing nothing to develop and to revive these cottage industries. These cottage industries are on the verge of ruin and we have seen no plan from the Government side to develop and revive these industries.

With regard to the Assam shoal and the Ranigunj area, this area also possesses vast potentialities for heavy industry. Mr D C Davar, Rotarian, has spoken in the meeting of the Rotarians last year at Asansol, that the Asansol-Ranigunj area is the gateway of the much-needed prosperity and the source of employment of West Bengal. Why can't we use all these possibilities and rehabilitate as many refugees as possible? In 1954, the official journal of the West Bengal

Government has rightly characterised this area as the Ruhr of West Bengal. But, our Government is doing nothing over there to employ more and more of the unemployed people and refugees in those areas.

If Government is sincere in solving this problem, and if Government is sincere to take our co-operation, then, my concrete suggestion would be to set up a committee consisting of representatives—MPs—of all the political parties to go through this matter and to chalk out a plan and the necessary steps to solve this problem. My first request is that without properly utilising all these resources of West Bengal no refugee should be sent outside for rehabilitation. This should be done here and now and if it is done I can safely say that much of the discontent which is now prevalent among the refugees can be removed and the full co-operation of the people of West Bengal can be achieved. Do not compartmentalise the problems of the refugees and non-refugees in West Bengal. Take the whole problem of West Bengal. A proper solution of this refugee problem naturally depends on the rebuilding of the economy of West Bengal which is almost in a broken condition at present.

I want to take this opportunity to mention some of the problems of the Muslim refugees. There are about 50,000 refugees in West Bengal at present and 50 per cent of the Muslim refugees are in my constituency. Every day I am seeing their untold suffering. For the last seven years they are running from door to door, to every government official from the Prime Minister Pandit Nehru down to the thanedar, but they are not getting any relief from Government. They are not getting back their property which they have lost during the communal disturbances of 1950.

[Shri M. Elias]

13 hrs.

I know very well that it is very difficult for Government to remove all these East Bengal refugees who are occupying the houses of the Muslim refugees. Therefore, our concrete suggestion is this. I had a talk with the East Bengal refugees who are occupying these houses. They would be very glad to help their Muslim brethren, but their difficulty is this. Government is not making any proper arrangements for their settlement; they are not giving them adequate loans and enough land for building their own houses. Therefore, they are not in a position to leave the houses of the Muslim people. Therefore, my earnest request to Government is to look into this matter. I have already drawn the attention of the hon. Minister of Rehabilitation and he has assured me that he would look into the matter. But I do not know how long it will take to settle this matter. In the meanwhile crores of rupees are being wasted. If a fraction of this money is spent for the rehabilitation of the poor Muslim refugees, they will be very much happy and bless Government.

In respect of the minority problem I want to place certain broad facts before Government. Though the sacred policy of our Government is to give equal rights and equal facilities to all the people of India, irrespective of the community to which they belong and though it is incorporated in our Constitution, I am sorry to say that it is not satisfactorily implemented by the machinery of Government. Everywhere there is discrimination between minority and majority communities in the field of business, in the field of employment, in the field of education. Everywhere there is discrimination.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya** (West Dinajpur): Discrimination is made in favour of the minorities.

**Shri M. Elias**: Let me mention this for the information of my hon. friend. The West Bengal Government have

stopped all the aid which were being given to the minority people for education through Urdu and Arabic. For this reason the doors of education to the Muslim students have been closed for ever. Even a reactionary State like East Pakistan has not yet stopped the help which they are giving for education of Sanskrit. Therefore I would request Government in the name of the secular State, in the name of humanity, in the name of justice, to see that the problems of the minorities in our country are solved. There is no doubt that the minorities in our country are enjoying better facilities than are extended to the minorities in East Pakistan. But we should see that we do not give any handle to the reactionary elements in Pakistan to adopt a different attitude to the minorities there.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya**: They do not do it so much as you do here.

**Mr. Speaker**: Let the hon. Member proceed; he should not be interrupted.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya**: If you will kindly allow me to speak Sir, I shall keep quite.

**Mr. Speaker**: If I do not allow him, what will he do?

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya**: I submit, Sir, I am not interrupting. Being an unsubstantiated statement it ought not to go unchallenged.

**Mr. Speaker**: Whether I am to give an opportunity to all the five hundred Members here or not is a matter to be decided by me from time to time.

**Shri M. Elias**: I may mention one important thing. Our Government and our Prime Minister have repeatedly stated that they do not intend to follow the Pakistan Government. We are more dignified than the Government of Pakistan. The statements of these people who belong to the Congress Party but do not follow the policy of Government give a handle to the reactionary people in Pakistan to dis-

rupt the friendly attitude existing between the people of India and Pakistan. They should see the other side of the picture, what the people of Pakistan are wanting.

Lastly, I want to mention for the information of my hon friends what Mr Tara Shankar Bhandopadhyaya said recently

**Mr. Speaker:** Then why his co-religionists, people who have gone there, are coming away?

**Shri M. Elias:** It may be to create confusion. Therefore I must clarify this point. I want to say here please do not decide by seeing the reactionary elements in Pakistan, but by seeing the attitude of the common people there.

At a Conference held in East Bengal under the leadership of Bhasham gates were erected in the name of Mahatma Gandhi in the name of Netaji Bose and in the name of Rabindra Nath Tagore. This only goes to show that though these people may have no regard for the people of India they have high regard for the leadership of India. Shri Tarashankar Bhandopadhyaya who belongs to the Congress Party after returning from the Conference stated at a press conference that he had witnessed a wonderful spectacle of the people of Pakistan always willing to make friendship with India, they are always eager to settle disputes between India and Pakistan in a peaceful way. When this is the actual state of affairs we should conduct ourselves in such a way that we do not give the reactionaries there any handle to disrupt this atmosphere. This is for the information of hon friend.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:** Are you holding a brief for Pakistan or speaking for East Bengal refugees?

**Shri M. Elias:** Let me also assure my hon friend that a day will come, and it is not very far off, when the democratic minded people of Pakis-

tan will liberate themselves from the reactionary rulers of Pakistan and establish a democratic Government, which will be friendly not only to India but to all countries of the world. Therefore we should know how to respect the people of other countries and not follow the reactionary rulers of Pakistan.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya.** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for having allowed me to speak on this subject. We are considering a scheme for the settlement of refugees in what is known as Dandakaranya area. That scheme, I must say, has received the support of everyone in West Bengal, except those who are absolutely perverted and those who are determined to see things in a perverted light.

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** Who are they? Who are objecting to it?

**Mr. Speaker.** Order. Let the hon Member proceed in his own way. Hon Members may ask the Minister.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** The Minister has not been able to supply us with the scheme. If this gentleman knows a little more we would like to know what it is.

**Mr Speaker:** This kind of interruption disturbs the atmosphere in the House. I have been pulling up this hon Member that he should not interrupt an hon Member of the Opposition. I cannot carry on in this manner. I have heard *ad nauseum* questions being asked on Dandakaranya as if light is going to come only from this hon Member.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:** I hope the cap has not fitted. In any case, the Dandakaranya scheme is sufficiently well known and has been adequately discussed in the Press. The Minister himself has circulated a note putting in a summary of that scheme. I received one myself and I hope the other hon Members have received it. That scheme is in short made up like this. Parts of three States have been put together to form one settlement under the control of the Central Gov-

[Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya]

ernment to accommodate the East Bengal refugees. We have supported it; we do support it now. I do not think there is anything wrong in the Central Government taking up the whole question. I feel that it will do good to the refugees if they are settled in one block together instead of being dispersed in the whole of India—partly in Assam, partly in Bihar and so on. That will preserve their social life and culture and language. This is a thing which my hon. friends in their so-called enthusiasm for refugees ought not to overlook. If we are really to be guided by our sincere intentions for doing good to the refugees, we should have these points in view.

So far as the Central Government is concerned, I should say that in forming a committee or commission for controlling and regulating the affairs there, care ought to be taken that the refugees do not feel that they are abandoned. That is the main point. Desertions have taken place in different camps because, after having been taken to certain places, they have been left in a condition in which they felt that they were abandoned both by the State Government and the Central Government. That situation ought not to develop so far as this scheme is concerned. The whole thing is in an incipient stage and lots of things will have to be done to develop and make it fit for accommodation so that people may earn a livelihood in that area and also have facilities for education, social life and other things. I hope that the Central Government will take sufficient care and see that these things are done and if they are done I believe they will have no objection to go and settle there. The idea that comes out at times in the reports of the Central Government and the utterances of different Governmental authorities that the refugees are not inclined to go out of West Bengal should be knocked out of the head. They are quite prepared but the atmosphere and necessary accommodation must be provided to allow them to live a life which they have been used to so long in their places.

The community now rooted out from East Bengal has played the most glorious part in the entire social structure of India. That is the community which is coming to India; it has given some of her most distinguished sons to India: P. C. Roy, J. C. Bose, C. R. Das and there are lots of other names may be mentioned. Some of these scholars like Pandit Madhusudan Saraswati are revered not only in Bengal but in all the philosophical schools of India and some of the scholars of modern India came from East Bengal. That is a community which has enriched the different aspects of Indian life by its contribution to politics, culture and learning. It is this community that has to be resettled and their traditions, habits, culture and language which they have been used to till now, ought to be respected and preserved. We ought to devote our attention more to these things than to other questions which would rather distract the whole issue and put the whole scheme in a wrong way and ultimately defeat the entire purpose of their being resettled in an area where they could live their social life and cultural life in a way they were used to so long. That is the whole thing that I want to put before you.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव (हिसार) .

जनाब स्पीकर साहब, आप ने अभी तक ईस्ट बंगाल के रिफ्यूजीज का किस्सा सुना। मैं आप की तबज्जह उन रिफ्यूजीज की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ जिन की बाबत गवर्नमेंट का ख्याल है कि उन का मामला खत्म हो गया।

पेस्तर इस के कि मैं अपने यहाँ के मामलात का जिक्र करूँ, एक बात प्रकाशन की तौर पर धानरेबल मिनिस्टर की सिद्धमत में भर्ष करना चाहता हूँ, और वह यह है कि जब कमेन्सेशन बिल सेलेक्ट कमेटी के सुपुर्द हुआ तो हम को वह बतसाया गया कि तकरीबन ८० लाख रुपयों के बेरिफाइड क्लेम्स बहुत से इन्स्टिट्यूशन्स और कालेजों के मौजूद हैं। लेकिन उस वक्त धानरेबल

मिनिस्टर साहब के कहने पर सेनेक्ट कमेटी ने यह फैसला किया कि यह सब की स रकम जैनरल पूल में डाल दी जाए। जितने डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल और कालेज हैं उनको गवर्नमेंट इमदाद देनी। मैं निहायत खुशी के साथ भर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि फिल वाकया गवर्नमेंट ने और इस मिनिस्टरी ने जितन डिस्ट्रिक्ट एजुकेशनल इस्टिड्यूशन्स और कालेजेज थे उन के साथ बड़ा फैयाजाना और प्रच्छा मन्क किया। खुनाचे भीसने साहब ने, जो डिप्टी मिनिस्टर थे, इस तरह के कालेजेज के वास्त एक परमानेन्ट स्कोम बना था जिस में तीन तीन लाख रुपए कालेजेज के लिए रक्खे गए और तीन तीन एकड जमोन देने का वादा किया गया। जहा तक अस्पतालो का सवाल था, खुद साहा साहब की ईमा से उन को रुपया दिया गया। एक अस्पताल हिसार के अन्दर है, उसको भी रुपया दिया गया। उस अस्पताल के पास ३० लाख रुपए का ट्रस्ट था, लेकिन उस ट्रस्ट का एक पैसा भी नहीं बचा। उम का वरिफाईड क्लेम भी बहुत बड़ा था। लेकिन वह साग रुपया तो पूल में चना गया। गवर्नमेंट न उस को अब तक सिर्फ डेढ लाख रुपया दिया है। अब मुझे पता लगा है कि मारे के सारे स्कूल और अस्पताल एकानमी ड्राइव में भ्रान वाले हैं। इस लिए मैं भर्ज करूंगा कि जिन को देने का आप वादा कर चुके, जिन्होंने आप के वादे की बिना पर रुपया खर्च किया, जो कि अब भ्रध बीच में पडे हुए हैं, मेहरबानी फरमा कर आप उन अस्पतालों, स्कूलों और कालेजों को डम एकानमी ड्राइव की जद में न लाइए। मसलन एक कालेज सुडगाव के अन्दर मौजूद है, जिस पर भर्जी खत नहीं 'ड' है, वह आप के रुपए से बना है। आप उस को भ्रध बीच में न छोड़िये। हिसार कालेज है हिसार का अस्पताल है उस को भी न छोड़िए। चार लाख की स्कीम अस्पताल की है, आप ने एक या डेढ लाख रुपया दिया है, उस को तो मुकमल

करा दीजिए। आप को एस तरह की चीजों को बीच में ही नहीं खत्म कर देना चाहिए।

इसी तरह स्कूलों और कालेजों का सवाल है। मैं भर्ज करूंगा कि हमारे यहा पब्लिक ट्रस्ट के लोग हैं, वह मुझ को कोसते हैं, इस वजह से कि सेनेक्ट कमेटी के वेअर-मैन की हैसियत में मैं ने रजामदी दी थी, और सेनेक्ट कमेटी को राजी किया था कि ८० लाख रुपये जेनरल पूल में डाल दिये जायें, गवर्नमेंट हमें रुपया देगी। मुझे खुशी है कि गवर्नमेंट ने हमारे एतबार को सच्चा साबित किया, लेकिन एकानमी ड्राइव के नाम में वह उम एनबार पर पानी न फेरे।

अब मैं भ्रमली किस्मे की तरफ आता हूँ।

Shri Barman (Cooch Behar—Reserved—Sch Castes): May I request the hon Member to speak in English so that we may also understand?

डिप्टी डायर बास भागवत : मुझे जो मामल भर्ज करने हैं वह ऐसे हैं जिन का ताल्लुक ईस्टर्न बंगाल में नहीं है। मैं जो कुछ कह रहा हूँ उस का ताल्लुक वेस्ट पाकिस्तान के लोगों में है। मेरे पास बक्त बहुत थोडा है। मैं जल्दी में अपनी बात खत्म करना चाहता हूँ। भ्ररेजी में वह इतनी जल्दी खत्म नहीं होगा। वैसे मुझे अपनी टूटी फूटी भ्ररेजी में बोलने में कोई एतराज नहीं है, लेकिन आज बक्त बहुत कम है।

Shri Barman: I am requesting him to speak in English so that we also may understand.

Mr. Speaker: He says that the next part, which he is going to deal with, does not relate to East Bengal Refugees or the refugee problem there at all.

**Shri Barman:** Are we not interested in other problems?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Get the time extended, otherwise it will be difficult for me to finish all my points.

**Mr. Speaker:** Why does the hon. Member think that he will be more fluent in Hindi and Urdu?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I am not fluent at all in any language. If I speak in Hindi or Urdu at least I will have the satisfaction that I mentioned all the points that I wanted to say. I am not used to speaking in English as my Madras or Bengali friends. Moreover, who will speak in Hindi other than myself, because I come from a Hindi-speaking area. Anyway, my friend's request is in order and I will speak in English.

I want to speak about refugees about whom it has been said that they have been fully rehabilitated. I want to relate a story of some of these persons. First of all I will take up the case of Alwar and Bharatpur people. There are about 30,000 families who have been sent to the old State of Alwar. You know in Rajasthan it is all arid land and nothing else. There is no water available. Each family was allotted ten acres of land. As a matter of fact, these people were living in Kurukshetra. They were not willing to leave that place. I and other people were requested by this Ministry to ask these people to leave for Alwar and other places. It is at our request that these people left for Alwar and other places.

The Government was pleased to give them ten acres of land each. So far, so good. The Government said that they will be responsible for their food etc. for some time and will give them every help by way of taccavi etc. They said for some time they would only charge land revenue and nothing more. In one of the letters which I produced before the Advisory Board it was also stated that after two years they will get occupancy right in those lands.

One thing that I would very respectfully submit to the hon. Minister is that, at the time they were allotted these lands there were no rules for compensation made, but at the same time Government issued a notification that all those persons to whom lands were allotted should not prefer any claims. All the other refugees were allowed to put in their claims whereas these persons were not allowed to put in their claims about rural houses, because they were allotted about ten acres. According to rules, because they were allotted more than four acres, their houses, if they are worth less than Rs. 20,000 they were not to be taken into consideration at all. At the same time, if a person had four or five houses and each one of them was less than Rs. 20,000 he would not be entitled to a single plea. If he had four houses worth Rs. 80,000, even then only if there was one house worth more than Rs. 20,000 that would be taken into consideration and all the others disregarded.

What happened at Alwar? Out of these 30,000 families I think only 5 per cent people were there who preferred their claims. The other people were debarred from making their claims. This is a question of first-class importance which has not been considered by the Ministry at all. A notification was issued that those persons should not make any claims. In obedience to that notification the people did not make any claims, because they were allowed ten acres. There were some people, some two or three per cent people, who did make their claims in spite of the notification. Their claims were rejected on the plea that there was already a notification; only in the case of such people who had urban claims their claims were verified.

What happened after some time? As I told you ten acres of land was given and out of these ten acres one acre of chahi cultivable land was also given, and that was the principal means of their livelihood, because the other land will not yield anything

unless there was good rain. These people were also given taccavi. They were not given any houses. Shri A. P. Jain, when he propounded his interim scheme, said in the House that every man in Punjab to whom land was allotted had a house and therefore his claim to a house could be disregarded. But, these people were not given any houses. They were only given some money for making *chhapars*.

So far as that money is concerned, something like Rs. 1162 per family on an average, it is said that that was given by way of taccavi, by way of food etc. etc. Now, I must thank the hon. Minister for his having remitted the amount which was spent on their alimony, their food. I am not very thankful in this sense that he has not shown any sort of concession to them. Originally, when they were asked to go there it was said in the notification that the Government will be responsible for their food, but the Ministry added this item also to their account. When this was brought to the notice of the hon. Minister he was pleased to make it a rule that no money will be charged from them for their food. In this way each family got a concession of Rs. 250.

But, what about the rest—Rs. 800 or more which has been given to these people. Do you propose to recover this amount from them? I must say it is impossible to recover that amount from them unless you send them somewhere else. So far as these lands are concerned, you want them to pay the price of these lands, whereas in lieu of that price you have already asked them not to make any claims for their houses etc. They had property worth crores of rupees and they did not make any claims in accordance with your notification. Whatever claims they made you rejected them. With what face can you ask them now to pay the price of these land. And, what is the price of these lands? In Rajasthan the people themselves are charging only Rs. 100 per bigha from

jagirdars, and you propose to charge something between Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 per bigha. Is it fair? Is it just? I am submitting this for your consideration.

Last time, when the rules were before the House, in 1955, I requested Shri Khanna to go over there. That was my only request then. I reinforced that request by requesting other respectable officers of this Ministry. I requested Shri Srivatsava, Shri Johnson and others to go there personally and look at the conditions there, and if they were not satisfied I will not say a word. But, unfortunately, Shri Khanna went there during the elections. He went only to Alwar and returned. I would again repeat my request. Such is the deplorable condition of these refugees that you cannot imagine how they are living. It is but fair that at least the hon. Minister does visit that place and see these people. They are just like the children of the hon. Minister. He must realise that he is a Rehabilitation Minister. He must look to his own children.

I am going to bring some more complaints to his notice. If he does not go there they would not get any satisfaction. If he goes and looks to their conditions they will be amply compensated. They are people who do not want to complain. They are not urban people, they are not vociferous people, they are simple unsophisticated peasants, they only want that their conditions may be seen.

12:29 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

I am submitting for your consideration another matter. The hon. Minister said: all right, pay this money in 15 instalments just as the Ganganagar people are doing. The Ganganagar people are rich, they can pay. These people cannot pay when you are charging them this amount. Moreover, what has the Ministry done? They say that the rejected claims may be revived, regarded as good. But, those persons who did not prefer any claims because you asked them

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

not to prefer any claims are not getting any benefit. I would respectfully ask Shri Khanna to kindly consider this case from the standpoint of those who did not prefer any claims because they were not allowed to do so. First of all you make a rule that no claims should be preferred and then you say that such of the rejected claims may be regarded as good. It is not fair, it is not just.

I am telling something more. Your proteges are today being, I should say, pursued like animals. You gave lands to them in Rajasthan. Those lands are being taken back from them. I do not know whether there is any good Government in Rajasthan which is capable of doing justice to these refugees. Shame heard too many stories in nepotism, partiality and injustice to the refugees.

Mr Deputy-Speaker: The hon Member would become harsher if he addresses the Minister directly.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The Minister is too good to react on me. Therefore, whatever I say he will take in a sportsman like way. But I accept your advice and I will address you. I hope you would not be harsher than the Minister on me so far as time is concerned.

I was submitting that so far as these people are concerned the position is this. The Collector of Alwar issued secret orders, secret circulars to the Tahsildars and other people that the lands are not to be given to the refugees. There were secret orders to that effect. Those lands have been given on patta to the local people. There is conspiracy among the local people and the local officers and I am sorry to say this. I have been informed like that. People have come and told me that the Collector and other people in Rajasthan are simply tyrannical towards them. Their lands are not being restored. The people are living and yet some of them are reported to be dead by some patwari. The lands are made over to the local people and the

local people get the patta. The lands are not returned. There are secret orders to the effect that after 31st May, though there might have been orders that the lands should be returned, those orders will not be in force. I have a copy of the secret letter with me and if the hon. Minister wants it, I will place it before him for his consideration so that he may look into the matter. This thing is thoroughly objectionable, namely, the right of the ordinary citizen being regarded as non-existent. There should not be such tyranny exercised over those people. I request the Minister to look into this matter. The matter could be decided this way, namely, either you appoint a fact-finding committee and send the committee or your officers to the place—whom you want—or, you appoint your advisory committee to go into the matter. I request him to go there or let him send some of his officers to go there for two days so that they could look into the affairs. I shall be satisfied if he looks into the matter. In 1955, the hon. Minister said that he would look into the matter, but according to me, he has not looked into it in the way in which I wanted him to look into. He has done something but that is not sufficient. They are very poor people, as I have said, and their case demands the greatest amount of attention from the hon. Minister. Without repeating, I would request the Minister to go to the place himself for two days, or, he might send somebody or appoint a committee. I will be satisfied if a committee is appointed and the matter settled. I do not think this is fair, that is, the persons neither being given their claims nor the value payable being reduced. They are now asked to give three times the value which they cannot possibly give. Their case is deplorable. I hope that my request in this matter will go home.

Now I come to another point. That is about the Lehna Singh market. Dr. Lehna Singh was the last great man to come to India from Pakistan. He was our Minister also. After him this market is named. When I say

this market is named When I say that the market is named after him, I can also say that nobody living there should feel that he is not living under the protecting wings of their own patriotic, sympathetic and brave Dr Lehna Singh What happens now? Compare the Khan market with this market In the Khan market, there is the upper flat and the shops beneath There are two shops beneath each upper storey The hon Minister, when he was speaking on the rules in connection with the Rehabilitation Bill, told us that if there are marginal cases, he would look into them sympathetically Though he did so out of his kindness, I should say that even for that we had to agitate In the case of the Khan market, the Minister has agreed that the upper flat can be given to one person and the shops can be given to other persons He has accepted such a rule in regard to that market I have no complaint there Now, what is the position? The Lehna Singh market is 117 yards, whereas the Khan market is 119 yards It so happens that the price which has been calculated, so far as the Lehna Singh market is concerned, is Rs 10,759 The rule is that houses which are more than Rs 10,000 should be sold in auction If the basis on which the Khan market rate is accepted is good, then there will be no difficulty whatsoever in paying It is not that they are not willing to pay Rs 759 more We will certainly pay it But we want that as in the Khan market, where the price of land is divided into three portions, one for the flat and two for the shops, a similar thing should be done for the Lehna Singh market Please do this If you kindly accept this suggestion on this basis, as you have accepted it in the Khan market, all those who live in that market will get the advantage

I only want that this may be divided into three portions as in the Khan market, and the rest may be distributed. The three portions constitute firstly two persons who own the shops and the third to the person who owns the flat I asked those people who came to me as to whether they

were prepared to say that they would not go to (adversely affected) the hon Minister and say, "Why have you increased our share?" They were agreeable, they will certainly make them agree, and either pay the amount to them or see that the amount is not lowered But, at the same time, my humble submission is, so far as this case is concerned, there is difference in cost as between the Lehna Singh market and the Khan market In the Lehna Singh market, the cost is Rs 8,729, whereas in the Khan market, it is Rs 7,268 In Khan market it should have been more, because it is located in a much more prosperous place But the other market is situated in a far-off place, Subzi Mandi

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** I might make the position clear by making one observation That will save the time of the House and of the hon Member This case has been brought to my notice very recently and I will see that there is a uniform basis, and that there is no discrimination against any market That is my policy, and I am having that case examined

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I am very much satisfied with the answer I do not proceed further with that point The other facts which are connected with this should also be kindly gone into by the hon Minister He knows them I shall come to the next item and that is about Purana Quila I will not go into the history of it Judging from the attitude the hon Minister is adopting today I think there will be some announcement from him so far as this question is concerned But this will not be the first time that he makes an announcement in regard to these people living in Purana Quila These people came in here in 1947-48 Then there were persons who wanted to be sent to the Kingsway Camp They were respectable people who said that they wanted protection only not gratis relief They were sent to the Purana Quila and were housed in small alcoves there Then tents were fixed but

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava].

they caught fire. Shri Mohanlal Sak-sena was then the Minister in charge. He told those people out of sympathy towards them that the Government had got materials and they would build houses for them. "But we have got no money to pay the labourers." The people were asked to contribute something and they contributed Rs. 150 each. Something to the tune of Rs. 60,000, as the people said, was contributed, though the hon. Minister, in reply to a question, said that it was Rs. 45,000. I have got those receipts with me. Anyway, it was said that this amount was received towards the construction of huts. This is a case of self-help. After the amount was collected and the huts were built, what happened? After one year, the Ministry asked the people to pay Rs. 12-8-0 per hut by way of rent, whereas the idea was that it was a temporary structure and that after sometime, other arrangements would be made, so that they would have to pay nothing. But some people paid Rs. 12-8-0 each and some did not pay at all. I have got the receipt with me. Nothing more upto this time has been done. But there are those who had to pay, much more and who paid what Government demanded.

People went to Panditji and told him: "We are being asked to pay." Panditji, who was going somewhere then, said that he would surely go to their places and settle the matter. But up to this time, nothing has been done. Panditji has not gone. Though usually, when Panditji promises to visit, he does come, but he has not come to this place yet. I do not know how far this story is correct.

But then, what happened? In 1952-53, they all made many applications. I have got full copies of those applications in which the people asked the Minister to kindly come to their help and give them some place to live in. The people who came to Delhi subsequently were given ihata in Lajpat Nagar and other places. The people of Purana Quila hoped to be treated very handsomely, and they were also pro-

mised that they would be treated well and accommodation provided for them near their present place of occupation and custom.

But in 1954, the reply came "you have been handed over to the Delhi State" and Delhi State came to be in charge of those people. In the Delhi State, the hon. Minister, Shri Yudhvirsingh, promised to them that they will get a site just near their own place, two miles from their place, and that they will not be sent away to far off sites. I have got those papers with me and all the correspondence with me. I have got cutting of the pronouncement which appeared in the papers also. When Shri Yudhvirsingh promised to help them, they were satisfied and then, our hon. Minister also gave them assurance that whatever Shri Yudhvirsingh said was all right. I understand the Ministry has been making full attempts to find out some place where these people could be located. They did not want to move to some other place four or five miles away. The Purana Quila people did not want to go there. The Ministry also accepted that situation, and the people's stand. After accepting that situation, the Ministry began to search for some place which could be found. The Secretary of the Ministry also made good efforts so far as I understand, and finally they found out a place near Jungpura.

I have got copies of the speech made by the Minister at different places regarding this subject and I also know that the Minister said that "we are considering the place near Jangpura". But nothing has been done so far. The people were not given any place. I do not know why. I know that the hon. Minister would do his very best to see that they are properly rehabilitated. What is the use of sending these people 8 miles away and troubling them again? In that place, there are 500 families and they have got accustomed and habituated to that place. They do not want to go to any far off place. They do not want to go to Malaviya Nagar, Lajpat Nagar or Kalka Colony, As a mat-

ter of fact, they should not be forced to go there. I would very humbly suggest to the hon. Minister to give them accommodation in Jangpura, as promised.

It is said that the Defence Ministry has got some two or three poles there. I made enquiries. First of all the difficulty was, the Rehabilitation Ministry said, "it does not belong to us". But after searching the records and after contacting various people, we found out that as a matter of fact, this place belongs to the Rehabilitation Ministry. So, I would request Shri Khannaji to give a healing balm to these people. Their hearts are injured, their feelings are lacerated. They have been relying on the promises of this Ministry. I know it may be difficult for the Ministry perhaps to perform this promise if there is any other Ministry intervening. But when I know that it is within the power of this Ministry to perform this promise, I very respectfully and very insistently do submit for their consideration that they ought to honour the promise which they have given.

I do not think Shri Khannaji will ever say that he did not perhaps give a sort of promise. I do not say it is an unalterable assurance; I do not say it is binding and it is something which can be taken to a court of law. Anyhow, the promises made by the Delhi Minister are as good as the promise made by this Minister, because he was in charge then. At the same time, this Member has affirmed that promise and said he would look into it. He has not given the last word. Many questions were asked in the House and he gave favourable replies. Nothing will be lost; if the land belongs to you, I only want that you should give them a plot each and a model of a house, so that they may build their own houses. This will be the best course

to adopt today. If you kindly agree to this, they will forget all the difficulties and troubles that they have undergone in the last 8 or 9 years. After all, that place is to be utilised for a zoological garden. Human beings are entitled to more consideration than animals.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member has always been pleading for animals much more.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Hon. Member or hon. Minister?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member has always been pleading for animals also.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Quite right; but I regard man as the best animal.

So far as this matter is concerned, I expect that the hon. Minister will kindly make a pronouncement and give an assurance to those thousands of persons who are waiting for it.

I come to another market, the Kamala Market, named after a noble lady. What do the people living in this market want? I remember those days when these people, who are now living in this market, occupied some parts of the Queen's Garden and other places on Burn Behan Road. They were not allowed to live in those places. Many years ago, our humble services were utilised for asking them to vacate those places. We went and told them, "you vacate those places". For two years they lived at their houses without doing any business; they ate up what they had got. They left those places, because those places were being disfigured by thatched huts and for two years they did no business. Then they came to the Kamala Market.

I should like to remind this Ministry that not once, but hundred times, the Ministry said that all built properties and all other evacuee properties which have come to the pool will

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava].

be given over to those persons who are in possession. These persons are in possession of these shops. Why are you not giving these shops to them? What is the rub? They are only worth Rs. 4,000. Any person who has got a claim for Rs. 10,000 or more can be given these shops or he can pay the amount. If you kindly look at the rules which the Government themselves framed, rule 36 says:

"Classes of Government-built properties which may be allotted: The following classes of Government-built properties shall ordinarily be allottable:—

- (i) Every Government-built residential property valued at Rs. 10,000 or less,
- (ii) every Government-built shop valued at Rs. 10,000 or less."

May I humbly ask, in the face of this rule 36, can anybody say that the shops in the Kamala Market will not be given to these people who are in possession? How can you get out of your rule? You are bound by this rule. There is no reason why you should get out of this rule. Even if you have power to get out of this rule, I would submit that justice, morality, I should say, and the rules of evidence—and the section dealing with estoppel; I forget the number—probably 115 requires that you should give them these shops. All those persons who have got a claim of Rs. 10,000 or more can take possession of the property and keep it. You will only charge him the price or recover it from his claim. When you have given out these shops to this person and by his conduct he has not bid against any other property, he had a right to say, "Since I vacated that place on the basis of your assurance. I did not make a bid for the property, you are estopped from saying that you will not give the shop to me." It is unfair to say that these shops will not be given to these persons.

What is the reason why these shops are not being given to them? I am rather surprised at the reason given by the hon. Minister. On 13th April, 1957, after these people have been in possession of the shops for a very long time and when they have not hit against any other property, the hon. Minister wrote a letter to Shri Radha Raman, saying that these shops will not be allotted. The reason given is, at the time when this land was taken, an assurance was taken, an assurance was given by the Government that these Ramlila Grounds will ever remain the property of the Government. These people interested in it made enquiries from the Ramlila people and asked them if they had made any such condition. I have got their reply. So far as the Ramlila people are concerned, they say, "We have got absolutely no objection to those shops being given to those allottees". The reply is there from the President of the Ramlila Committee.

But what has Ramlila to do with this? I do not know. Ramlila was never celebrated on this piece of land. Ramlila Society has got no right of possession or title over this property. It belongs to the land development section of the Rehabilitation Department now. From 1937, the land belonged to the Rehabilitation Department. Do I understand that when the Rehabilitation Department built these big shops, spent some Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 lakhs over this property, they knew that the property belonged to another and yet spent the money? If the property belongs to them, who made this condition? Not the Ramlila Committee; not any other person.

You know better than myself, Sir, that according to the Transfer of Property Act, supposing a thing is transferred and a condition is attached to it, the condition is void. So far as this excuse of the Government that some condition was made when the land was transferred to them is concerned, I will not say that there is no substance behind it, because

the hon. Minister has written a letter to Shri Radha Raman that there is something like that. Therefore, I will not go to the extent of saying that this is absolutely illusory. But at the same time, even if there was some promise given by the hon. Minister to somebody, the promise is not binding. The condition is absolutely void. I leave it here. I have to say much about this Kamala market matter. I will not rub it further. I will leave it to my hon. friend to consider whether he could not go into this question and do what is right.

I shall take up two other matters and finish them within two minutes that you have been pleased to give me.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** This was the second ring.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I am very sorry I did not hear the first. It ought to be waived. Otherwise, I would have taken two minutes from then.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I did not only ring the bell the first time but really spoke out that the first ring is gone.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I am very sorry, I did not hear, I am rather hard-pressed for time. I have two other matters and I have done

The first thing that I want to submit is, I will only repeat that the hon. Minister gave an assurance to every person who took a loan from the R.F.A. that the interest shall cease from 1955. I know it is not within his powers to see that the interest ceases. But, the promise is his, not a promise of the Finance Minister. But, he is a part of the Government. I would request him to use all his endeavours in favour of those to whom he has extended this promise. Even if the promise is gratuitous, you know under section 70 of the Contract Act, he is bound by

his word, his Ministry is bound by it. His word, I take it, is good. I would ask him to request the Finance Minister to fulfil his word. Otherwise, I would say, there is no jointness of responsibility in the Ministries. I would request him to keep his word to these people. After all, it is not a great amount. In the R.F.A., what is happening? Thousands of loans have been given to people, which will never be recovered. Out of these people, who are entitled to claims, you will get everything. What would happen if the Government kindly agrees to give up this part of interest. The hon. Minister's word is worth more than that I would submit that he must see that this word is fulfilled.

The second point that I would like to bring to his notice is a very strange thing, which I have not seen in my life. This Ministry has, by an unilateral act, asked the people to pay much more than they could possibly be asked to pay under any terms of contract or under principles of morality or justice. A person was occupying a house shop from 1951. Now, they have revised the rent and the person who was paying Rs. 15 is asked to pay arrears to the tune of Rs. 30 a month. I have got notices in my possession in which a person who paid Rs. 13-8-0 is now being asked to pay so big an amount that he could not pay. By an unilateral act, the Ministry has raised the rent and they are demanding it for the last several years, from the date of occupation till now.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** May I clarify the position, Sir? That would save his time and the time of the House.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I do not know whether it would save time or not. But, the clarification has to be made.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** Any way, that would save the time of the House. The position is this. In Delhi, we have built a large number

[Shri Mehr Chand Khanna]

of markets We have rationalised the rent according to some agreed formula In some cases the rents have been revised and they have gone down The reduction comes to round about Rs 14 or 15 lakhs In some cases, unfortunately, the rents had to be increased though the increase will not be material Since 1955 September, all those persons who purchased shops under the compensation scheme will not be required to pay anything in addition There has been a mistake These notices had been issued retrospectively which is wrong I am withdrawing those notices I shall see that if any increase is to take place, that shall take place prospectively and not retrospectively

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I understand that these notices will be re-called from what has fallen from the hon Minister I am very happy I do not want to rub it further I wanted to say some bad things about these notices

**Mr Deputy-Speaker:** Now, the hon Member should end here When this concession is given, he should end

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I am ending Lastly, I would submit for the consideration of the hon Minister that in all these matters, he ought to behave with sympathy and consideration towards these people who have been put to a lot of suffering in charging inflated market prices He is charging the 1957 prices and not the 1951 prices, when the houses were built I request the hon Minister to consider these points sympathetically and thank you for having given me so much time

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** Sir, it is unfortunate that one participates in this discussion on the Demands for the Rehabilitation Ministry with some feeling of frustration This frustration stems from the fact that although years roll by, the fate and

fortune of the refugees and the reply of the Minister concerned hardly ever changes I hope the hon. Minister will not repeat that this is a very difficult problem so far as the East Bengal refugees are concerned, that this differs essentially from the problem that we had to face in the west, that there is a continuous stream coming along from East Pakistan This is an old story. We have heard it from year to year

My point is, we knew that the East Bengal refugees will be coming along. Government would have to prepare themselves for it It is not sufficient for the Government to say that since the refugees continue to come along, they are faced with a difficult problem The problem is difficult But, it is for the Government to solve the difficult problem and not repeat that excuse from year to year

Incidentally, what Government have done recently is a fact—my hon friend Shri A C Guha also referred to this which violates the pledges that were given by the leaders of India to the East Bengal refugees They have made it difficult for the migrants from there to come over to India I had tabled a question which was not answered but I was referred to an unstarred or a starred question, 934 of September 1956 about restriction on migrations That answer, I found, was this The answer stated that there were no restrictions, but that administrative instructions were issued earlier in March and also in July 1956 to the Deputy High Commissioner in Decca to ensure that migration certificates would have to be issued only in deserving cases, and that these instructions referred mainly to the information to be obtained from applicants and the process of issuing migration certificates

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** Who gave this reply?

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** This reply was given by, I should think, the External Affairs Ministry

But in the West Bengal Assembly, the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister stated only recently that "we have said in September 1956 that we shall not issue migration certificates except for very serious and weighty reasons. Our Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca has been instructed to that effect". I understand that the procedure has been changed. As a matter of fact, migration certificates are now very stringently issued. I understand that from January to May, 1957, a little over 5000 certificates have been issued. Very many hard cases occur as a result of these restrictions. I am told that a rule has been made now that if a person's parents are in East Bengal, he will not be allowed to come over. He may have relations here who would be able to educate him. But, the young man is not allowed to come over.

Apart from that, I would like to raise the morality of the question. What right have we to debar these people, to whom we have given a pledge on the Partition of the country, from coming over? They do not come over for nothing. One does not leave his homeland for nothing. One does not leave his home and come here for living in the conditions in which refugees are living in Sealdah, for nothing. The hon. Minister should realise that if they come to live in these conditions, it is because compelling circumstances force them to come over and they could not stay on. As a matter of fact, the hon. Minister himself had admitted that on many occasions.

I should also like to know as to whether before issuing migration certificates, Government are laying it down as a condition that they will not be entitled to any rehabilitation in West Bengal and only on that condition, if at all, migration certificates should be issued. Because, I find in the six-monthly review it is stated that the East Bengal refugees will not be given any further rehabilitation assistance in West Bengal.

Secondly, I hope that the hon. Minister will not repeat that the problem is difficult because West Bengal has attained a stage of saturation and that no refugees can be taken over. That is also a very old story. As the hon. Minister knows, that is also a very controversial debate point, controversial not between him and ourselves only, but controversial as between Government spokesmen themselves. I wonder if the hon. Minister knows what the Chief Minister of West Bengal said on as late as the 19th of April this year when some Bettiah refugees interviewed him that if we had a policy of rehabilitation through industrialisation, through the setting up of industries, then, all the refugees that have come over and those that have yet to come over can be settled in West Bengal. He might refer to the Chief Minister of West Bengal and find out whether that is true or not. Even in his budget statement, the Chief Minister of West Bengal had stated that we should not be dogmatic about this question as to whether the East Bengal refugees who are coming over can or cannot be settled in West Bengal. I am sure that if we had a plan, we could have settled them in West Bengal. But I am not against sending them over to any other part of India.

14 hrs.

I do not agree with what my hon. friend Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya has said, namely that other parties are opposing it. I am sure, being an editor of a newspaper, he knows the resolution that was passed by the Bengal Assembly; it was passed unanimously by all the parties, whether it was the Communist or the Socialist or the Congress Party; it was a unanimous resolution that was passed on the Dandakaranya scheme.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: I referred to what I found here.

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** We are all members of the parties. Does the hon. Member mean to say that the Communist Party in Bengal is going in one way, and in another way here? Is that his appreciation of affairs as to how members conduct themselves?

I am sorry I was interrupted, and, therefore, I was replying to my hon. friend. I know that you, Sir, would pull me up.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:** I am unfortunate, because I was referred to

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I waited till the hon. Member himself pulled himself up.

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** As I said, we are not opposed to East Bengal refugees being sent out. What we are opposed to is a lack of knowledge of the conditions under which East Bengal refugees who will be sent outside will have to live. If we know what the scheme is, and if we know that they will be looked after properly, why on earth shall we object, particularly when the scheme is good?

The main problem of East Bengal refugees, as of any other refugees, as you will understand, is that of rehabilitation. What have we done, since the Partition of the country, for the rehabilitation of the East Bengal refugees? Some 32 lakhs of refugees have come over to West Bengal. I am confining myself to West Bengal, for the moment, and not taking into account the East Bengal refugees in either the eastern region or outside. Government claim that they have given rehabilitation benefit to some 19 lakhs out of these 32 lakhs of people. I do not know if the camp population is included in these 19 lakhs, but I believe it is not. Of the remainder of 13 lakhs, about 3 lakhs are accounted for by the camp people who are not, I must say, in a very bad way. It is bad in the sense that the money is being wasted, but they are looked after to a certain extent. They are being looked after, but money is being wasted. That is not rehabilitation. That is relief. You are demoralising the people. That is what you are doing at a huge cost.

But the balance of 10 lakhs of people have rehabilitated themselves, and they have not received any rehabilitation assistance from Government, excepting probably tear-gassing, lathi charges, and sometimes even bullets. I refer to the people who were in the squatters' colonies. They have rehabilitated themselves, and I only hope that Government will not displace them again, either the West Bengal Government or this Government.

The paradox of the whole situation is this. The House should realise that the 19 lakhs of people whom Government claim to have given rehabilitation benefit are the people who have not at all been rehabilitated. This is the problem of these 19 lakhs of people for whom Government have spent by way of rehabilitation benefit about Rs 50 to 52 crores, I believe. They have not been rehabilitated.

Now, what is this rehabilitation that Government talk about? It is that they have given a house-building loan of Rs 500 or Rs 1,250.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** The hon. Member is a very responsible Member, and he used the word 'now'. He said the refugees have been shot at and given bullets. May I ask him to give me one or two instances where bullets have been fired?

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** That was long ago. There have been many campaigns about squatters' colonies years back, years gone by, where there has been sometimes, also shooting. If the Minister wants one or two instances, I shall give them later on. But that was not my main point. I said, and I stand by what I said, that they have not got any rehabilitation benefit excepting, let us say, if not shooting—there were one or two cases of shooting—at least lathi charges and tear-gassing.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That may not be the main point, but if the hon. Member does not give instances, that may be very hard on the Minister....

Shri Bimal Ghose: I shall give the instances later. There has been shooting when refugees have gone on huge demonstrations. My hon friend Shri C K Bhattacharyya who is a newspaper editor will be able to tell him where there has been shooting.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I shall rather go by the hon Member's words.

Shri Bimal Ghose: The main problem is the rehabilitation of these people. And it is these people whom Government claim to have rehabilitated or given rehabilitation benefit to, who really need rehabilitation today. That is the tragedy of the whole situation. As I was saying, what they call rehabilitation is just giving Rs 500 or Rs 1,250 of house-building loan, or Rs 500 or Rs 750 by way of business loan. That is all the rehabilitation benefit that they have given.

For eight or nine years since then, what has happened? If they had built a house, they had broken down their house, sold their tin, and sold their wood and everything else to eke out a living. The main question is that Government have really not laid down any plan—the plan might be there on paper but they have not implemented any plan for the rehabilitation of these people.

What have Government done? Take, for instance, the things they say they have done. Take, for example, the rehabilitation on land. The Minister, about two years ago, that is, in 1955, stated that Bengal had been saturated. We have been hearing it for many years. All right if Bengal is saturated, do something about it. We are taking up land in other States, other States have been generous to offer us land. In the Second Five Year Plan you will find that it is stated that other States have offered 3 lakhs of acres of land, and thus is, without taking into account about 14,000 acres in Tripura and 6,000 acres in Cachar. Since 1955, these lands were being offered. And the Second Five Year Plan has made a provision of nearly Rs 4 crores for acquiring and de-

veloping one lakh acres of land. If you take the six-monthly reviews, you will find references to this land in other States. But in the return for the latest half-year, there is no reference to the land in other States. And there is the Dandakaranya scheme now. I want to know what has happened to the schemes for the development of the land in other States? Have Government given them up? Or are they going with them side by side? What is happening? How many people have they taken in these two years' time to other States and rehabilitated them there?

The trouble about the Dandakaranya scheme of rehabilitation is this. We have been talking about Dandakaranya. But even in the note circulated by the Minister, he has said that even within two or three years' time it will not start maturing, probably, we shall be getting the fruit of it some five years hence. But where will the refugees be till then? As it is happening, the problem will solve itself. They are slowly dying out of starvation. That is the only solution that Government are looking forward to, because after five years only, people would be rehabilitated, if at all, in the Dandakaranya. I want to know what is going to happen during these five years' time.

Then take the case of industries. It was from 1955 that at the informal consultative committee meetings, the Minister was pleased to give us a list of the industrial schemes which he was going to help to establish. Two years have since gone by, and what has happened? There are about fifteen or sixteen schemes, and out of these fifteen or sixteen schemes, about half of them date from 1955 and the other half from 1956. So, two years or one year have gone by. But how many people have been rehabilitated? Even here, as my hon friend Shri A C Guha has pointed out, most of these industrial units that are to be established are in places which are not heavily concentrated refugee areas. But if we take some of the heavily concentrated refugee areas, I shall tell you what is happening.

[Shri Bimal Ghose]

For example, the Minister knows that the heavily concentrated refugee areas are Gayeshpur, Taherpur, Habra and Khosbasmahalla. In Taherpur, there was a proposal for starting a new spinning mill. The proposal came in 1955. In the previous sessions, it was being said that some progress was being made; but now, the observation in this latest report is that no progress has been made, and it is likely that the scheme may have to be cancelled.

Now this is the way that rehabilitation is being done. And this is a heavily concentrated refugee area. What have the Government done? They set up many government colonies. They took the people there. They gave them house-building loans, probably accommodation. But nothing to earn their living. Five, six and seven years have passed since. Government gave us hopes that they would start industries, they would give them a living. That is quite understandable. We were quite happy when we heard that. I was in that meeting which was held two years ago. I felt enthused then but today I must say that I am greatly disappointed, about what is happening. Let the Hon'ble Minister come with me to Chakdahā and even beyond and all along that belt right up to Calcutta. He will find that refugees are dying out slowly.

Take Gayeshpur. There was a proposal for a new spinning mill in 1955. What has happened? The site has been allotted. Two years have passed. Some buildings, stores, godown etc. have been brought up to roof level. Foundation of factory shed under construction, and so on. This is after two years. Do you think that this is the way to rehabilitate refugees? Do you think that when the refugees get excited and worried and agitated and bring out processions and demonstrations, they are not in the right? How long will human patience hold out, I want to ask, under such conditions?

You have spent only in Bengal about Rs. 85 crores of our money, the poor taxpayers' money, and this has

been largely wasted. Rs. 52 crores or so were utilised to rehabilitate. Where is the rehabilitation? You have given relief. I do not say that that is all wasted. But here it is a process of slow starvation.

That is the picture in West Bengal. We have tried to bring that to the notice of Government and to tell them about the conditions, but conditions do not improve. I therefore want to bring it to the notice of the House today and appeal to the Members of this House that they must bestir themselves, they must try to bring their influence to bear upon the Government and force it to do something; otherwise money is being wasted.

Two years ago when Shri Mehr Chand Khanna was posted to Calcutta, we had great hopes. But I must say now that those hopes have certainly not been fulfilled. We are greatly disappointed.

Therefore, I would like to appeal to this House to see that something is done about it.

There are one or two other points, apart from rehabilitation, which I wanted to refer to. One is an old matter to which I have often referred. That is about regularisation of properties exchanged between the refugees going from one country to the other. It has not been a legal exchange because no legal documents were transacted. But as the Hon'ble Minister knows, properties were exchanged fairly and squarely. The difficulties that the refugees are in now arise from the fact that some Muslims who have come back are selling their properties and those who are in possession of the land are finding it difficult, because in certain cases there have even been court executions.

I have been bringing this matter to the notice of the hon. Minister. He has been saying that it is not within his jurisdiction, and he is trying his best to do something. I hope he would be able to do something and not just say that he has tried his best and has failed.

I would end by saying that the problem, so far as the refugees from East Bengal are concerned, is really very grim. This House should realise that merely by voting money, its duty is not finished. Moneys have been voted year after year. But I want every Member of this House to try and find out as to how many people have been actually rehabilitated, not merely reports which say that when some scheme will be completed, so many people will be rehabilitated, so many people will be rehabilitated on land, so many will be absorbed in industry and so on. That story has been going on for too long to carry any conviction any more. We want results now.

There is one matter about refugees from West Pakistan I would like to refer to. Though I do not know much about it, I have been given a point by a friend, and that is about allotable houses to be sold. The instalment that has been arranged is spread over 8 years. The first instalment has to be 20 per cent. The refugees want that it should be 8 equal yearly instalments, and the first instalment should also be 12½ per cent.

Another point is that the price at which these properties are being sold is the present market price, while the Advisory Committee had recommended that it should be cost plus 10 per cent. Considering that these people are refugees, that appears to be reasonable. Although the hon. Minister may say that that will affect his pool, even then while Government is not incurring a loss and while the parties concerned are refugees, I think that that is a reasonable proposition and hope that the hon. Minister will give his due consideration to that matter.

**Shri Barman:** At the outset, I would mention a particular matter regarding my constituency. During question it was asked by my hon. friend, Shri S. C. Samanta, whether some grant was proposed to be given to the T.B. hospital in Cooch Behar and it had not been given.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** Is he referring to the segregation hospital?

**Shri Barman:** That was a hospital built during the war. Later on, it is being used as a T.B. hospital and in that district, now there is no other arrangement anywhere else.

I am glad to learn that the hon. Minister during his tour of North Bengal, that is, my constituency,—I am very grateful to him for that; I met him also—said that he had himself visited the hospital about six months ago. Therefore, I need not relate to him the condition of that hospital. It is most deplorable that in that State such a horrible condition should exist in a T.B. hospital. The hospital is situated some three or four miles away from the town of Cooch Behar where every little house gets electricity. But that hospital, which was not a creation or construction of the West Bengal Government or the Government of India but was a legacy from the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, has not been given that facility. I have visited that hospital. Poisonous snakes are wandering here and there. Some of them have been killed and kept as in a museum. That place is still without electricity. In that hospital, the accommodation is limited. I think more than double the number are being accommodated there. Why? When people contract T.B. their relations simply take these patients and leave them there. The doctor says, 'what shall I do? I cannot turn him out'. So perforce he has to find accommodation in the verandah or in the open. As the Government, in spite of requests, did not increase the money given for diet, instead of Rs. 3 per diem which, I understand, is provided for a T.B. patient, only Re. 1 per day is being paid. They are given to such straits by compulsion of events. As I have stated in the beginning, there is no other place not only in that district but even in the neighbouring district of Jalpaiguri where the T.B. patients could be kept. That is the condition. And, I am pained to learn today that the hon. Minister can give such a reply.

[Shri Barman]

My reason is this. He is the Minister of Rehabilitation and he is also a Member of the Cabinet. Not only the refugees but the people of that neglected land can expect justice from the Cabinet. In North Bengal, Cooch-Bihar is the most concentrated place so far as the refugees are concerned. I leave alone the question of other people. It is his first duty to see that the people who are under his direct charge, namely, the refugees, when they are attacked with T.B. must have some place. Has he managed to give any accommodation for them? If he has not done that, is it not his responsibility to see that things are done?

I recognise that the Central Ministry here cannot take up the job and the rehabilitation works will have to be undertaken by the State Governments there, and by the people who know the place. If any agriculturist has to be rehabilitated, the land belongs to the State and so he cannot but depend on the State Ministry. But where the question of policy or principle is concerned, he has certainly, the uppermost voice and he can just ask the State Ministry to do a thing. He can say: I have just visited the hospital; I have seen the conditions there; there is no other place where those unfortunate people attacked with TB can go; so, why do you refuse to give more accommodation there? Would it benefit him simply to say that because the State Ministry had not sponsored or accorded their approval to any grant to that hospital, he could not do anything. I charge him with this and not with others.

I have visited the place. I really forgot to bring the matter to his notice. I was pained to hear him washing away his responsibility by saying that the State Government did not give their blessings to the scheme. I hope he will think over the matter again.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I shall assure the hon. Member that I shall again take up the question with the State Government.

Shri Barman: I shall be grateful to him, Sir.

Many things have been said. I am fully in accord with my friends who have criticised the Government that though large sums of money have been spent, yet rehabilitation has not been effected. At the same time, we should also realise that it requires efforts from both sides. The Government can after all give help with money and make all sorts of arrangements that are possible. It is for us, the evacuees and refugees also, to put up the best of efforts so that we can rehabilitate ourselves.

I would have been rather glad—if any of the hon. Members had suggested that the Ministry or the Administration would have done this or that instead of acting in the way they are doing.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Establish industries.

Shri Barman: I am glad that my friend Shri Ghose has mentioned the question of industrialisation within West Bengal.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Five spinning mills, 2 crores each; ten crores.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am sorry the hon. Member had not enough time; but I was helpless.

Shri Barman: He has mentioned the question of industrialisation within West Bengal. I do not know what is the *per capita* cost of rehabilitation if we take to big industries. How many refugees have we got? He has said that 19 lakhs of people who have sought to be rehabilitated have not been rehabilitated. I shall simply ask him how much money will be required so that we can get 19 lakhs of people in industry within West Bengal. Even at present, I think, compared area to area, perhaps, West Bengal is a little better industrialised than other parts. My friends from other parts and underdeveloped areas are complaining. Therefore, I say this is not a practical proposition. We cannot have all the industries of India in West Bengal. Apart from that, there is the financial limit also.

As regards agriculture, another friend from the opposite side has suggested that they are not opposed to sending the refugees to other parts like Dandakaranya. In the same breath he says there is enough scope and possibility of rehabilitating these refugees in West Bengal itself

Shri Bimal Ghose: No. no.

Shri Barman: I did not mean the hon. Member

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: He is referring to Shri Elias.

Shri Barman: I am referring to M. Elias He says that he does not object to Bengalis being settled elsewhere. At the same time, he says that there is enough scope within Bengal. He quotes some statistics which we have been hearing here *ad nauseum*. I do not want to name the hon Member who always quotes statistics regarding areas in Bengal, so much of cultivated area and so much of uncultivated area and so on

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: He referred to the time of Alexander the Great, 300 B C

Shri Barman: My friend, Elias says that beginning from Dinajpur up to 24 Paraganas there are marshy lands. Then, he says Sunderbans He quotes some historians—I do not know of which century—as saying that if Sunderbans is developed and reclaimed, lakhs and lakhs of people may be settled there. I also know the Sunderbans though I live in the northernmost corner of Bengal, that is at the foot of the Himalayas. But, I had the good fortune of travelling through the Sunderbans for 7 continuous days in steamer. I know the conditions there Now, practically more than half has gone over to Pakistan

An Hon. Member: Only one-fourth remains.

Shri Barman: My friend says, one fourth. Maybe half, maybe one-fourth.

That is not material. That is a forest area where Bengal tigers live.

I have lived there in the Sunderbans for 7 nights and days. I have seen tigers crossing from one place to another. Everybody knows the condition of the Sunderbans. Now there are a few zamindars who have reclaimed lands which are contiguous to the mainland of West Bengal. The remaining parts are dense forest. They have reclaimed it by raising bunds and every year thousands of lakhs are spent in maintaining the bunds. Sometimes they give way and the crops are washed away.

Now when he says that we can resettle and rehabilitate people there by reclamation, I do not know how many acres of deep forest he wants to reclaim When he was mentioning about Holland, I was thinking that the next point he was going to refer was about the reclamation of the area covered by the Bay of Bengal.

Shri Bimal Ghose: That is what he said.

Shri Barman: I do not know how the Hollanders have done it. If it be within the possibility of the Ministry and if my hon. friends in this House think so they may try to do it.

But may I ask one question? If in same breath we say that there is enough scope for rehabilitating refugees within Bengal and that they should go elsewhere, is there any Bengali who would like to go outside? I ask one question of Mr. Elias He has been very eloquent when he was saying that 50,000 Muslims are still not rehabilitated. They went to Pakistan and they have come back. But they have not been rehabilitated.

An Hon. Member: They did not go to Pakistan?

**Shri Barman:** Then how were they ousted from their homes?

According to the statistics of West Bengal Government 7 lakhs of people had left West Bengal for East Bengal. Almost all of them have come back and it is in the report of the Ministry itself that everyone has been rehabilitated except a few thousand and all attempts are being made to rehabilitate them also. He says that they are mostly in his constituency. I do not think there is any necessity now of propagating something on the floor of the House after he has been elected. I shall ask him, is he ready to go and tell these Muslim refugees to go outside Bengal for the purpose of rehabilitation? No one would like it. I will not like it. If there is any scope of being rehabilitated in a neighbouring area, I may not perhaps mind it. The refugees would not mind going to Assam or Bihar, if they are kept in one block. But we would not like to be partitioned again. As between Assam and Bihar and Travancore-Cochin, I shall certainly not prefer Travancore-Cochin, but either Assam or Bihar, because of the psychology that there I will find something with which I am more or less familiar. That is the natural psychology of every person. And if you go on repeating *ad nauseum* that there is enough scope for rehabilitation within our State not a single refugee would like to go, not because he wants to create some trouble, or disobey orders, but because he thinks that his own State is trying to drive him out.

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

**Shri Barman:** I may tell my hon friends from my own experience—I do not know the experience of other Members elsewhere—that there is already friction between refugees and the permanent residents of West Bengal, because their own livelihood, their own economic condition is now being strained. West Bengal has adopted a principle that educated refugees should be given preference in the matter of employment and Employment Exchanges have instructions

to that effect. That means a share of the original inhabitants of West Bengal is being taken away.

So far as the rural areas are concerned you give a refugee a house to live. He lives there. But how is he to subsist? When he finds no other employment, he takes to all unlawful means. He forcibly enters his neighbour's gardens and picks away the fruits of his tree. When he is prevented, he asks: "Only you shall eat it, shall we not?" I do not know who is right and who is wrong. But this is what is happening.

Very recently in my constituency some refugees attacked the house of a householder, looted his property, beat that man and his wife and it was reported the man is lying in hospital. The whole locality is against the refugees. All are not bad people, but there is a strange feeling now created between the refugees and the original inhabitants. Do you want to strain further the economy of West Bengal. That will be only creating much more muddy and trouble the waters of West Bengal. That alone could be the only objective of the people who give this advice.

Can't you say, 'You have been living in East Bengal for so many years. You were not in good condition. After ten years you have come here. Instead of West Bengal, if you go to Dhandakaranya, it is not going to matter much. You go there in a body.' We have always been saying. Rehabilitate us in a mass, so that we can maintain our culture, gradually we will mix with the people there. Instead of that if we say in a double-faced manner that they are ready to go, but there is scope here for rehabilitation that does not help anybody. That only creates misery and agony to the West Bengal State and to the people too.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The following are the selected cut motions relating to various demands under the Ministry of Rehabilitation which have

been indicated by the Members to be moved subject to their admissibility:

| Demand No. | No. of Cut Motions  |
|------------|---|
| 76         | 1342, 1843, 319, 946, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373. |
| 77         | 948, 949, 950, 951, 953, 955, 956, 957, 962, 1143, 1374.  |

*Failure to concede the demands of the displaced persons in Alwar in Rajasthan*

Shri Parulekar (Thana): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced to Re 1."

*Failure to redress the grievances of the displaced persons in Kalyan Camp in Bombay State*

Shri Parulekar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced to Re 1"

*Need for legalising immediately the transfer of properties effected between emigrants from East Pakistan and West Bengal*

Shri Bimal Ghose: I beg to move:

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

*Failure to develop Rasna Serma for the purpose of Rehabilitation*

Shri Dasratha Deb (Tripura): I beg to move:

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

*Declaration of Kanpur City as a "Dispersal area" for E.P.D.P.s.*

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I

beg to move:

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

*Need for development of urban colonies for displaced persons*

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

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

*Need for setting up Industries and Training-cum-production centres for displaced persons*

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

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

*Influx of displaced persons from East Pakistan*

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

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

*Vocational and technical training Schemes*

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

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

*Payment of claims through the central claims organisation*

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

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

*Failure to remove the discrimination between the urban and rural refugees in the matter of compensation*

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs 100"

*Compensation claims of the refugees both from East and West Pakistan*

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs 100"

*Question of recovery of loans from those refugees whose claims have been rejected*

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs 100"

*Failure to rehabilitate the refugees from East Pakistan property*

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs 100"

*Need to provide better housing facilities to refugees both from East and West Pakistan*

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs 100"

*Need for industrial scheme for providing employment to displaced persons*

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

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

*Non-restoration of the property of Indian nationals under illegal possession at the time of partition*

Shri Ramji Verma (Deoria): I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs 100"

*Failure to extend the period from two to five years for the tenants who are occupying the houses auctioned by the Department*

Shri Ramji Verma: I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs 100"

*Failure to remove the discrimination between the urban and rural refugees in the matters of compensation*

Shri Ramji Verma: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs 100"

*Failure in providing facilities and amenities to displaced persons from the territory of Jammu and Kashmir State now under Pakistan's occupation*

Shri Ramji Verma: I beg to move:

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

*Need for giving of aid to the affected families of displaced persons in Tripura whose homes collapsed due to storm*

Shri Dasaratha Deb: I beg to move:

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

*Need for providing aid or loans to displaced persons in Tripura for the reclamation of Tilla land*

Shri Dasaratha Deb: I beg to move:

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

*Need to give loans to displaced persons in Tripura for purchasing cattle.*

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** I beg to move:

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

*Failure to open adequate number of test relief work centres for providing works to the unemployed refugee labourers*

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** I beg to move:

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

*Need for conferring ownership of land allotted to refugees by the Rehabilitation Department*

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** I beg to move

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

*Need for decreasing intervention in the cooperatives of the displaced persons*

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** I beg to move:

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

*Need for immediate stoppage of eviction of displaced persons*

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** I beg to move:

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

*Postponement of realisation of loan from poor refugees for the time being*

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** I beg to move:

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

*Provision for more allocation of sums for displaced persons in Tripura*

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** I beg to move:

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

*Need to advance loans to refugees to clear jungles for cultivation*

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** I beg to move:

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

*Need to extend the period for the payment of instalments in respect of property and loans*

**Shri Ramji Verma:** I beg to move:

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

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

**Shrimati Ila Palchowdhuri (Nabadwip)** Mr Deputy-Speaker Sir, I am thankful that I am able to speak on this Demand, because it is a burning question in Bengal and yet the problem has not been solved. My hon friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava said that we look to the Minister in the Centre for the balm that we need, I also look to the Minister for the balm for West Bengal. I realise that the container of that balm is the Finance Ministry. The Hon. Minister for Rehabilitation has often told us, even in this House, that whenever money has been required for rehabilitation, the Finance Minister has not stood in his way, and that he is able to get whatever money is needed for the work that has to be done.

We have always felt very happy when he has said this, and I hope this will be the case henceforth also. Sir, it is an admitted fact that we have realised that it is not possible to rehabilitate the refugees in West Bengal altogether, and that some other way has to be found. I would bring to the Minister's notice that there are three things that can really help the rehabilitation of refugees quickly,

which, if he will kindly look into will render this process much quicker

One is, reorienting the set up of camps and colonies Secondly, there are the educational institutions that need help, and thirdly the industrial development Industries sponsored by individuals, do rehabilitate the refugees Of course, this may be a State subject, but when it comes to a matter of policy, the Central Ministry must decide it After all, it is the responsibility of the Centre Here, I will bring to your notice, that there are certain things which need greater expedition I will give the example of a particular case in Nadia, because it is my constituency, in the Women's Camp at Champita The building scheme there must go forward much quicker The women there are in camps, and you cannot give them protection when they live in tents There are 605 students or more, but there is no school building at all The material and equipment—needed for teaching come at very tardy intervals and the enthusiasm dies out I appeal to the Minister to rectify these things There is a school at Karimpur, The Jagannath Junior High School which caters to practically 85% or more refugees students It will have to be converted into a full fledged High School by 1958 Otherwise, the students will have to go elsewhere, for their School Final examinations It is a great hardship for displaced parents to send their sons somewhere else I am sure the Minister will realise this point and look into the matter Although it is a State Subject I stress the point that the minister can always issue a directive

There is a refugee colony where the refugees have rehabilitated themselves I speak of the colony of Saktinagar, in Nadia It has never asked for any help from the Government, and it has set an example These people came away from Pakistan with the "mantra" of "Sakti" in their hearts They came away to guard, that which is dearer than life itself—honour They have rehabilitated themselves without any help from

Government, and they have not asked for any help so far Now, they ask a little help—a production centre—which would cost a paltry sum of Rs 11,000/- It would train about a hundred women There is no question of their not being able to market what they produce I have sent letters about it, and for years this correspondence has been going on. You will be surprised to hear, that the last letter I sent by Regd post, has been returned to me with an endorsement—"Refused—sent to sender" Why has this been sent back to me? I do not know I sent it to the Regional Director for Refugee Rehabilitation

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** State Government?

**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Yes However it has been returned to me, and I am sorry, it has been returned to me It is a legitimate case

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna.** Would the hon Member kindly write to me? I will have this case looked into

**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri.** I am very grateful for this assurance and I am sure the people of Saktinagar—their hearts—will swell with hope again They really deserve it They have donated sixty bighas of land, Sir, to the Government from their resources for a hospital You can see from this, the progressiveness and the determination of these people

Sir, a word about loans, Loans that are given have to be expedited People receive loans of Rs 500/- or Rs 700/- in two or three instalments. Their houses are being built Sometimes, half is put up, but the rains come and destroy it That is really what happens If I could put before you the picture of a person when he goes to the Relief Offices in the rural districts, it would make any one act play which is too long to stage in Parliament, and I hope I can put it to the Hon Minister sometime when I meet him

You have taken up the Dandakaranya Scheme We are all for it. No Bengalee who is interested in the

[Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri]

welfare of the refugees can possibly be against that scheme. But, it seems it would take two or three years to gather momentum. What is going to happen in the meantime? I hope he will do something for these refugees in Bengal, so that they do not starve. Of the Rs 83 crores spent in Bengal 43 crores has been spent in temporary relief. It is impossible not to have done it. People were dying in the streets like flies. What is the use of any rehabilitation, if you have not given them relief? So, some amount was spent on temporary relief and it has to be given. When the Dandakaranya Scheme becomes full-fledged it has to be taken into account that Bengalis, when they are sent out somewhere, must be given their own environment, language and culture. A London Cockney wishes to live within the shadow and sight of St Pauls and the sound of Big Ben, it is always the treasured pride of the London Cockney that he "lives within the sight of St Pauls and the sound of Big Ben." So Bengalis also desire that their language and environment should be around them. To teach their children they want Bengali teachers, Bengali Social workers to work with them, and Bengalee Doctors to look after them. They must live within the sight and sound of the Bengali language, environment and culture. Without that, there cannot but be desertions. It is not because they want to put a spoke in the wheel of the Government. It is because they want a certain environment. They have come away and left their ancestral homes, the sweet smiling fields of East Bengal are no longer for them. They have come to West Bengal and want to make a second home. That is why they must have their own environment—by which they can exist. The Dandakaranya scheme will be a vast scheme and will find the support of all the people of Bengal unless there be a few who have not got the good of the refugees in their minds. I am sure all parties will support this idea. I hope that this will be looked into

and that the Minister with his warmth and vision will see that this thing is implemented, when the Dandakaranya scheme comes into being.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. Lady Member should not wait for the reaction of the hon. Minister.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: India has always stood by the spirit as expressed by Panditji, that we have no enmity with any country. Muslims who went to Pakistan, have come back, and have been rehabilitated in West Bengal. They have been given minority grants and other help. There is one small point. A grant was given to Nadia for the minority community, which I think was 2.5 lakhs. After that, I heard that it was 2 lakhs out of which only Rs 14,800/- has been used, and the rest was surrendered back to the Government. It is a very sad affair, because the minority community has come back from Pakistan. Some of them are in dire need and I hope Government will see that the sum that has been surrendered is re-allotted to them, so that the work can go on, and their distress may be relieved. The Centre has come to the aid of Bengal and I hope that it will continue to do so. I do not want to say that more has been given to West Pakistan and less to East Pakistan refugees. Wherever the refugees are, the misery is there. Now that the misery of Bengal is greater, I hope the allocation from the Centre will be more, so that the work in the State will not be hampered. The Hon. Minister has said that Finance is not a stumbling block. I hope the Hon. Minister will see, that Bengal gets rather more, when needed, because the problem of Bengal is an acute problem, and it has now spread, so that it is a problem of India.

To-day unless we can solve the refugee problem, we cannot solve the problem of Bengal or India.

Shri A. S. Sarhadi (Ludhiana): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the Minister

for Rehabilitation to certain outstanding problems pertaining to displaced persons from West Pakistan. I may submit at the outset that while limiting my submissions to the western zone, I am equally alive to the magnitude and colossal nature of the problem that confronts him in the Eastern zone. The entire India is in sympathy with these refugees who are being squeezed out of their hearths and homes in Eastern Pakistan, and on behalf of the refugees from West Pakistan I would urge upon the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation that no effort should be spared to adequately rehabilitate those that are coming from East Pakistan. But, it would, however, be conceded that the problems of the two zones are different in nature. Whereas the conditions in West Bengal are fluid, the Government and the rehabilitation authorities do not know how many refugees are coming, what is the nature of their requirements, how they are to be met and all that, the problem of western zone is absolutely definite. They know very well the number of refugees they have on hand, their conditions of living, their needs and their necessities can decide how they are to be met in the light of experience that we had in the last ten years.

Therefore, I submit that the impression in certain quarters that the refugee problem, or the rehabilitation problem of western zone has been solved is wrong. It is still as alive as ever. I concede that it was also a very stupendous problem and needed all the herculean effort of the Ministry of Rehabilitation. They have tried to do their best, and they have met the situation boldly. But, still the problem stands there. The requirements of the Stricken displaced persons from West Pakistan are still there, and they need all the attention and care that the Ministry of Rehabilitation can give. If any proof is needed for this, that the refugees from West Pakistan also call for all the attention, I would not take the

Minister of Rehabilitation to Alwar as Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava did, but would ask him to go and see the conditions at the Land Rehabilitation Secretariat, Jullundur. I would request him to go and see the crowd that daily collects there to voice their grievances. I would also request him to go and see the office of the Regional Settlement Commissioner, Jullundur. Then he will see how many people are still stranded for want of rehabilitation. The very fact that people are being forced to sell their very high claims, about which they know very well that the Government stands committed to a certain payment, in the blackmarket for eight annas and ten annas a rupee, indicates that they have not been rehabilitated as yet. Again, I would request the hon. Minister to have a census taken of those people who are pulling cycle rickshaws in different regions of the Punjab. I would request him to see the poverty-stricken conditions in which they are living. Then he will find that the problem of rehabilitation of the refugees from West Pakistan is still alive and exists. For the purpose I would not take him to any great distance. It is no rehabilitation where hundreds of people from Faridabad, people who were one day very well off, who were once landlords and businessmen, should be brought to Delhi to do labour at Rs 1-12-0 and then taken back in the evening. This is no rehabilitation.

Therefore, I submit that the impression that the problem of rehabilitation so far as western zone is concerned has been solved is absolutely wrong, and it would need all the care and sympathy and also support from the rest of the country, particularly from the Ministry of Rehabilitation.

In this connection, I concede that ten years have passed. The Ministry of Rehabilitation has made a pronouncement about the quantum of com-

[Shri A. S. Sarhadi]

ensation that is to be given on the claims of the refugees. They have fixed it. They have definitely said that the evacuee property is to the tune of Rs. 100 crores and the Government of India have spent Rs. 85 crores on rehabilitation. They have said that these two together would constitute the evacuee pool which would be distributed on the claims. We know the position and difficulties of the Minister for Rehabilitation. We are grateful to him for what he has done. We are grateful to the country also for what they are giving us. But I would submit, is that sufficient? Is it not a unilateral act on the part of the Government, on the part of the authorities to which refugees are not a party to it?

Then, the commitment was given as far back as 1949 by Shri Gopalswamy Ayyangar. It was taken as a commitment that full compensation would be given. I need not draw the attention of the Minister for Rehabilitation to the actual wording of that commitment. His words were unequivocal. I might read them for the information of the House. He said:

"What I want to say on the question of compensation is this. I think nobody in the Government denies this. Compensation will be paid—may not be paid in the shape of cash, may not be paid in the form the refugees might desire to have. It may be partly in land, partly in house property, partly perhaps in cash and also partly in the shape of some kind of bonds."

What does this convey in the context of things? Lands were there at that time. Houses left by Muslims were there. The evacuee pool of all immovable property was there. That was not to be expropriated by the Government of India, that was naturally to go to those who were coming from West Pakistan. Yet, he said:

"partly perhaps in cash and also partly in the shape of some kind of bonds". Had he in his mind at that time that there would be such a heavy cut? Had he in his mind at that time that Rs. 85 crores will be spent on rehabilitation expenditure, including administration charges, Public Works Department charges and all that, and that they would also be considered as part of the pool? I think that was not in his mind at all. When he referred to the question of compensation, though the word "full" was not used, I think his words clearly conveyed that compensation would be given to the extent of the losses, because at that time the losses of the displaced persons from West Pakistan was taken as liability of the rest of India. They had suffered for the sake of the country and, therefore, this liability should have been discharged.

It might be said now that the question may be shelved now. But the question still remains. As I have already said, we are grateful to the hon. Minister for whatever he has done. But while making the pronouncement that this should be considered as a final payment so far as Government of India is concerned, he said, for the rest we should look to Pakistan out of the Rs. 400 crores of property that still remains there. That is his pronouncement, and he said at that time that efforts would be made to get out of Pakistan the properties that the refugees have left there. I am most grateful to him for the efforts that he has been putting in to bring Pakistan to reason and give us the properties that are there. He has been there more than once.

15 hrs.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Would the hon. Member finish within the next five minutes, or, would he like to continue on Monday?

**Shri A. S. Sarkadi:** I would like to continue

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Then, we will take up non-official business

**BEEDI AND CIGAR LABOUR BILL\***

**Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulating employment and work in the factories manufacturing Beedi and Cigar in India

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulating employment and work in the factories manufacturing Beedi and Cigar in India"

*The motion was adopted*

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** I introduce the Bill

**OLD AND INFIRM PERSONS' HOMES BILL\***

**Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and maintenance of old and infirm persons under the Directive Principles of State Policy

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and maintenance of old and infirm persons under the Directive Principles of State Policy"

*The motion was adopted*

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** I introduce the Bill

**INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL\***

*(Omission of section 497)*

**Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860"

*The motion was adopted*

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** I introduce the Bill

**INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL\***

*(Insertion of new section 124B)*

**Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860"

*The motion was adopted*

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** I introduce the Bill

**ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL\***

*(Amendment of sections 2 and 39 and insertion of new Chapter IVA)*

**Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Arbitration Act, 1940

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