

this unilateral action go on with regard to the Simla Agreement and is not the Government considering responding effectively to Pakistan's tactics and propaganda? What are the positive steps that our Government are taking?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: It is true that the statements of President Bhutto are not always consistent; they are full of contradictions. But I may remind the hon. Member that when Indian Press people asked him about his contradictory statements, he made a statement to the effect that the Indian subcontinent itself was full of so many contradictions and that he was a product of that. In view of that very clear statement, it is difficult to continue to raise objections to the various contradictory statement that President Bhutto may choose to make. We have been proceeding on the basis of accepting the Pakistani stand as conveyed to us rather than be too much obsessed by various statements that are made from time to time. I think that we should not be too much obsessed by propaganda and what appears in newspaper in Pakistan or other countries. These are important vital issues which cannot be resolved by propaganda. The Simla Agreement does provide the basis for the settlement. I am quite sure that propaganda also will not resolve the problem. That was why we signed the Simla Agreement and we should try to bind Pakistan to it and to take every step to find mutually acceptable agreements and mutually acceptable solutions. No outsiders can resolve these vital issues which have bedevilled the relations of India with Pakistan.

**Increase in Relief Assistance to
Bangladesh Refugees**

*631. **SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to increase the quantum of cash and relief assistance given to the displaced persons from the erstwhile East Pakistan now Bangladesh;

(b) whether his Ministry has received a petition to consider increment of such relief assistance from inhabitants of Nowgaon Camp and Mana Group of Camps; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) and (c). Relief assistance is given only to the displaced persons from the erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) who are living in Camps. The question of increasing the quantum of such assistance is being looked into by the Government.

(b) No formal petition has been received by the Department of Rehabilitation.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: The reply of the hon. Minister seems to be surprising. I simply would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in January last, the erstwhile Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation visited that particular Mana group of camps and if so, whether the people of Nowgaon Camp referred to by me had submitted a memorandum and whether their cases are being considered in view of the assurance that I got from him on subsequent occasions and other meetings that I had with him. In view of all these things, how many months more or years more would be required by the Ministry to consider extending this relief assistance to the poor displaced persons.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: About the memorandum referred to by the hon. Member which has been given by the President of the Mana Group of Camps to the then Deputy

Minister, I do not have immediate information with me. I shall find out. We have got information that the hon. Member himself had written a letter to this Department on various matters specially drawing the attention on this aspect. I do not like to refer to the hon. Member's letter. I have great respect for all the petitions and the hon. Member would pardon me for not referring to them.

So far as the family of six is concerned, instead of Rs. 70 Rs. 72 have been given. For more than six, instead of Rs. 75 Rs. 80 is sought to be paid. Subsidised ration is also being given to the refugees. In case employment is not possible, their case is also being considered, 200 grammes for the adult are being given as ration. Enhancement of the quantum and other matters also being considered by the Ministry of Finance.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: I think the hon. Minister has not received all information from the ministry. In the case of Mana group of camps it is not a fact that they are given subsidised rations. I would request the hon. Minister to consider whether it is possible to issue immediate instructions to give them financial assistance according to the Ministry's rules. For the subsidised ration why no policy decision has been taken for this particular Mana Group of Camps. Otherwise all people there will die within a few days.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: It would be immediately examined and considered.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I want to know from the Government the total number of refugees still waiting for the rehabilitation. How long are they waiting for the rehabilitation and has Government attempted any time-bound programme for the rehabilitation? If so, I want to know the details thereof?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: According to the information available with us 7547 families have returned from Bangladesh upto 23-3-1973. Out of these families, 4259 families have been moved from Bashirhat to Mana upto 17-3-1973. In addition, 313 families who had returned to the camps/rehabilitation sites from where they had deserted direct, have also been moved to Mana. About 2,585 families are awaiting dispersal at Bashirhat after verification, 248 families are also awaiting dispersal in Dandakaranya Project and in Chandrapur Project in Maharashtra where they have gone direct. In addition, 142 such families have arrived in Tripura.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Prior to 1971 also, thousands of refugees have come. I wanted to know the total number.

MR. SPEAKER: For that you should give separate notice. This question is about the increase in quantum of relief assistance.

श्री लालजी भाई : मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि बंगला देश के विस्थापितों के लिए राहत कार्य देने के लिए धनराशि के आंकड़ क्या हैं तथा इन राहत कार्यों के दौरान भ्रष्टाचार की कुछ शिकायत आप के पास आई हैं ?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: There are complaints and we are looking into them.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: May I know how much amount has been spent up till now by the Central Government on relief assistance, which is very much in the nature of being unproductive? May I know whether that amount would have been sufficient to rehabilitate a substantial portion of the floating population who migrated from East Pakistan? May I know for how long the Government of India will allow this floating population to create political instability in West Bengal?

SHERI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:
The second part of the question, I have already answered about the dispersal of the refugees. About the first part, I do not have immediate information. I will supply it to the hon. member.

देश में इस्पात कारखानों की स्थापना

*633. श्री धनशाह प्रधान : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या देश में कुछ नये इस्पात कारखाने स्थापित करने का सरकार ने कोई निर्णय लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो किन-किन राज्यों में ये कारखाने स्थापित किये जायेंगे; और

(ग) क्या इन कारखानों के लिए विदेशी सहयोग लेने का भी प्रयास किया गया है और यदि हां, तो उन देशों के नाम क्या हैं और इन इस्पात संयंत्रों में पूंजी लगाने के लिए क्या व्यवस्था की गई है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). No, Sir; except for the three new steel plants being set up at Salem in Tamilnadu, at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and at Vijayanagar near Hospet in Mysore State.

In connection with the longterm steel development programme preliminary techno-economic studies for some potential sites are, however, proposed to be taken up by the Steel Authority of India Limited.

(c) There are no proposals at present for foreign collaboration for the aforesaid three new steel projects. The question of importing some of the plant and equipment as also obtaining technical know-how for the manufacture of some sophisticated products would be considered at the appropriate stage.

श्री धनशाह प्रधान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप के माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन कारखानों को खोलने की व्यवस्था की गई है, क्या वे पिछड़े हुए इलाकों में हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMAR RAMANGALAM): Both Visakhapatnam and Hospet are not industrially advanced areas. I do not think it is possible to call Visakhapatnam as a backward area but certainly it is not industrially advanced. So far as Vijayanagar is concerned, it is certainly a backward area where there is very little industry. Salem also is not considered a major industrial area in the South.

श्री धनशाह प्रधान : क्या सरकार ने पिछले अधिवेशन में यह आश्वासन दिया था कि शहडोल जिले के बिजुरी क्षेत्र में जो 6 लाख की सम्पत्ति खराब हो रही है, वहां पर हम कोयला खदान खोलने की व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं ? क्या सरकार ने यह नीति बदल दी है और अब बिजुरी कोयला खदान को नहीं खोलेंगे ? क्या विन्ध प्रदेश के पिछड़े जिलों में—जैसे रीवा, सतना, शहडोल या अन्य पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में इस्पात कारखाना खोलने का सरकार का विचार है ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM: To my knowledge, no assurance has been given regarding the opening of mines. Regarding the opening of industries, to such a wide question I am not in a position to say categorically either "yes" or "no". All that I can say is that I have given no assurance.

Reassessment of India's Relations with commonwealth

*634. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any reassessment of India's relation with the Commonwealth;