

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Regarding refugees from West Pakistan, the major problem has been settled, and whatsoever minor problems are there with regard to a small number of families every step is being taken in order to solve them.

SHRI MUHAMMED KHUDA BAKHSH: May I know whether they have finalised the processes and procedure for the payment of 25 per cent as *ad hoc* grant on the value of properties left behind in East Pakistan—now Bangladesh—by the refugees?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I do not have any information about this immediately.

High Level Talks with Pakistan..

* 704. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:**

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Press Report in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 15th March, 1973 under the heading 'High-level talks with Pak sought';

(b) if so, whether he has stated to the Australian Correspondent that India wanted a high-level conference between the two countries to normalise relations; and

(c) if so, whether Pakistan has also desired the same?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). My remarks to the Australian Correspondent on the subject were in line with my earlier statements in the House. I have all along said that Government would welcome bilateral negotiations with Pakistan to resolve mutual problems. In our view summit-level talks should be preceded by adequate preparation through discussions at other

levels so that the summit, when it takes place, produces the desired results. No suggestion for officials-level meeting has been received from Pakistan so far.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: The President of Pakistan, Mr. Z. A. Bhutto, always accuses the Government of India for non-implementation of the Simla Agreement. But we feel that Pakistan is standing in between and the Simla Agreement is not being implemented. In view of the experience of the Simla Agreement, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he feels it or not that a package deal is necessary to normalise relations with Pakistan, and if he thinks like that, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has finalised any details of the issues to be settled with Pakistan before the release of POWs.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: There is no doubt that it would be more desirable if a package deal could materialise and could be struck. But at the same time it will not be very wise not to settle matters in the absence of a package deal. Anything that is settled and is out of the way is a step towards normalisation and, therefore, should not be rejected.

In view of my reply to the first part of his query, there is no need to answer his second part in which he asks whether we have finalised the issues that should be incorporated in the package deal. I would like to say that some of the important issues have been spelt out in the Simla Agreement, and both sides have agreed that those should be settled without the use of force, by mutual agreement.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: The hon. Minister has said that most of the issues have been spelt out in the Simla Agreement. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the various issues like recognition of Bangla Desh, release of Bangla Desh refugees who have been retained in Pakista, compensation for the refugees, war compensation, etc., had been spelt out in the Simla Agreement.

should also be a party in the trial of these prisoners. Has any thought been given to this matter?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Yes, a great deal of thought has been given to it. Our decision is that we will co-operate with the Government of Bangladesh. If they want to try any of these prisoners for offences committed in Bangladesh, then it is their responsibility and they will decide about the manner in which the trials should take place.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Recently when Shri Haksar was in Bangladesh, he discussed this matter with them. Besides the charge of genocide, will the charge of aggression against the established Government of Bangladesh be brought against these prisoners, because the Government of Bangladesh was established on 10th April, 1971?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Shri Haksar did not discuss this question with the Government of Bangladesh. The hon. member is trying to ask for information which is not with me and is not likely to be with me, because I have made it clear that primarily it will be for the Government of Bangladesh to hold preliminary investigations because these offences were committed within Bangladesh, within the jurisdiction of that country and it will not, I submit, be proper for us to cross-examine; on this aspect because this is not within our jurisdiction.

DR. RANEN SEN: When the Pakistan Army surrendered to the Joint Command on 16 December, 1971, it was reported that certain documents involving Rao Firman Ali and others were seized by the Joint Command. Later on, very recently, it was further stated in Indian newspapers that the Bangladesh Government had decided to try Gen. Niazi and Rao Firman Ali along with some other prisoners. May I know whether the Government of India is in the possession of any information with regard to these matters?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: No, Sir. We have no information.

DR. RANEN SEN: It is very difficult to get any reply from the Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER: Cryptic answers.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या बांगला देश सरकार ने भारत सरकार को कोई पत्र लिखा है कि कितने आदमियों पर मुकदमा चलायेगी, और मुकदमा चलाने के क्या क्या उन के उसूल हैं ? और ट्रायल भारत में होगा या बांगला देश में होगा ? इस सम्बन्ध में कोई इत्तिला बांगला देश ने दी है ।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: They have not given us the numbers yet of the persons whom they want to try, because they were completing the investigations. The trials will not take place in India because it is for offences committed in Bangladesh, and if the Government of Bangladesh decides to try the prisoners of war the trial will take place in Bangladesh.

श्री राम सहाय पांडेय : संयुक्त कमान के सम्मुख पाकिस्तानी आर्मी ने अत्यसम्पण किया था, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बांगला देश ने भारत को कानफ्रीडेंस में ले कर चार्ज-शीट तयार करने के सम्बन्ध में कोई कार्यवाही की है ? यदि हाँ, तो क्या ? मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि कितने प्रिजनर्स हैं और कितना खर्चा हो रहा है हमारे यहां ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : खर्च की बात बीच में कहां पैदा होती है । पहला सवाल ठीक है ।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: About the charge-sheet, the understanding is that when the Government of Bangladesh have completed their investigations and have taken a decision that there is a *prima facie* case against such and such of the prisoners of war, then we intend to co-operate with them and would like to transfer those prisoners of war to them.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: According to a news item in the *Patriot* of today, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh would be arriving here soon when the question of Pakistani prisoners of war will be discussed with him. Since the initiative has been taken by the Bangladesh Government in stating that it is prepared to release the prisoners of war if the Bangladeshi detainees in Pakistan are released, may I know whether that would be discussed with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh?

MR. SPEAKER: This question is about a report in the *Hindustan Times*.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh is arriving here for talks about prisoners of war.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that this question relates to a report in the *Hindustan Times*, to which the Minister gave a reply in detail.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh is expected to visit Delhi. I cannot give the exact time because the Bangladesh Minister are also busy with their own Parliament. According to press reports, their Parliament is discussing the President's Address. So, the date of his arrival will depend on his ability to extricate himself from parliamentary work. I would request hon. Members not to ask me as to what will be discussed even before the discussion takes place.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am only citing a newspaper report.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I cannot prevent the newspapers from publishing such reports. They are intelligent guesses. When the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh comes, I will be very glad to discuss with him all important matters. It will not perhaps be proper for me to indicate either the items to be discussed or the nature of those discussions. That will not be fair to me, and certainly not to the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, that we discuss beforehand in Parliament as

to what is going to be the subject matter of exchange of views.

E.S.I. Doctors/Agitation

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*705. **SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:**
SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doctors of the Employees State Insurance Scheme had been agitating for some time;

(b) if so, their demands; and

(c) the steps taken to meet their demands and redress their grievances?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (**SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY**): (a) and (b). The Doctors in the Employees State Insurance dispensaries in Delhi had been agitating for some time against the proposed move for withdrawal of payment of Employees' State Insurance Allowance of Rs 100 per month to them.

(c) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation considered the matter at its meeting held on the 17th March, 1973 and agreed to continue the payment of Employees' State Insurance Allowance, for the time being.

श्री शशि भूषण : ई एस आई के अंतर्गत काम करने वाले डाक्टरों को एक सौ रुपया भत्ता मिलता था। उसको बन्द कर दिया गया। इस की धाप दुबारा जारी कर रहे हैं। डाक्टर दो सौ माग रहे हैं। मैं जाना मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि धाप उनकी कितना देना चाहते हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY**): Rs. 100 were being given to the ESI Doctors as ESI allowance. It was not discontinued, but there was a recommendation that Rs. 100 need not be paid. This was recommended by the