

something exceptional. I know there are a number of Members who are still keen to put questions. If they give a notice for half-an-hour discussion, I will agree to it.

DR. RANEN SEN : There should be a proper discussion on the evacuees from Bangla Desh.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We have already given notice under Rule 193 for a short duration discussion.

SHRI PILOO MODY : The least we can do for the refugees is to sit on a Saturday, if necessary.

MR. SPEAKER : Next Question.

Help from International Agencies Like Red Cross for Bangla Desh Refugees

*393. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether International agencies like Red Cross have been contacted to help rehabilitate the evacuees from Bangla Desh ; and

(b) if so, what concrete assurances have been given by those agencies ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) and (b). Government has not approached any International agency for help in the matter of rehabilitation of evacuees from Bangla Desh. However, an appeal has been made to UN Secretary General and also a number of International voluntary agencies have been approached for assistance to provide relief in the form of food, shelter, medical supplies etc to the evacuees.

A statement showing the assistance received from or promised by various International agencies is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-368/71]

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : It appears from the statement that some of the countries and voluntary organisations have donated

either cash amount or given some relief in the form of milk powder, medicines, clothings, etc. But this appears to be not enough. I should like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that no request has been made by the Government of India. I would like to quote the statement made by Sir Alec Douglas-Home in the House of Commons. When he was asked by some of the Members in the House of Commons as to whether any request was made to the Government by the Government of India, he said :

"The answer to the question about more money being made available now, he said, was "that we will certainly consider whether that should be done. We have had no direct request from the Indian Government though there will be a meeting of the India Consortium on June 17. I would rather wait to see if there is an Indian request, as we anticipate at that time."

So, I would like to know whether the Government of India have made a request to the Government apart from making a request to the United Nations which has become a mere spectator of the sorrow and shame on our own brothers in Bangla Desh.

So, I would like to know whether any request has been made to other countries and if so what is that request.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : As far as I know, Prime Minister has personally addressed letter to foreign Governments. Replies have also been received. I do not know how this particular time appeared in the Press. Otherwise, so far as I know, the Prime Minister addressed letters personally to the various foreign Governments.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : We are happy to know that the Prime Minister of USSR Mr. Kosygin has given a call for immediate steps and he has asked Pakistan to ensure safety in East Bengal. The Soviet Prime Minister has said that Pakistan must create conditions for peace and safety in East Bengal so that the refugees in India could safely return. My question is addressed to the Prime Minister. I am really sorry she is not present.

MR. SPEAKER : It is for the Government. This is about international agencies.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : International agencies also relate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. At least the Prime Minister should have expected such questions. My question is this. Is the Minister in a position to answer whether similar call for immediate steps have been given by other countries and if so, which are those other countries ?

MR. SPEAKER : May I invite your attention to one thing ? This Question is about the International Agencies like Red Cross.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : External Affairs Minister is also in the same Government. (*Interruption*) Mr. Lakkappa, you have changed your sides now. If I asked the same question you would have supported me if you were in the Opposition.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : You must know the relevancy of the question.

MR. SPEAKER : I can only say, he is the only Member who has come to my rescue.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : The hon Minister said that Prime Minister had written to foreign countries. The Prime Minister of USSR has given a call to Pakistan Government to create conditions for peace and safety so that the refugees may return there. Have similar statements been made by other countries ? If not, what steps are taken by the Government in this regard ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is an important question but you cannot get the answer out of this particular Question, addressed to this Minister. He is not the Foreign Affairs Minister.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : Why Prime Minister is not here ?

MR. SPEAKER : Why should she be present when the question is addressed to another Minister ? Don't do that ; I am not going to allow this.

If the hon. Minister has some information about the agencies, he may please convey it to the hon. Member.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : I have no information as such. I shall pass on the feelings of the hon Member to the Minister concerned.

SHRI H.N. MUKERJEE : Would you kindly revive the practice that Jawaharlal Nehru used to have by being present on every day during Question Hour when he was in Parliament House, so that Ministers in trouble could be saved by his own effort ? The Leader of the House or the Prime Minister or somebody representing the Government as a collective entity should be present every day during Question Hour in the House. That sort of practice is being given up today by the present Prime Minister ..

SHRI PILOO MODY : I entirely endorse what Shri H.N. Mukerjee has said. As a matter of fact, I have come to the conclusion that the Government and particularly the Prime Minister thinks that Parliament is only one of those playthings that have to be tolerated for six months in the year.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Regarding the requests for relief which have been sent, according to the Minister, to various Governments and international agencies, I would like to know the reason for the kind of reports that we are reading in the papers that certain countries or agencies are offering some material which we later on say we do not require or in respect of which we tell them 'Please do not send them'. For example, if you would permit me to mention, in today's papers, we find that the Government of Australia has offered to send some medical teams, but the Government of India have hurriedly said 'Please do not send medical teams because we have got enough doctors'. Again, the Norwegian Red Cross sent a big consignment of cod fish, which is lying in Dum Dum, and now we are telling them 'please do not send any more of this' because it is a very unsuitable commodity for people who are suffering from gastro-enteritis. When these requests are made, do the Government of India have any clear conception about the specific things that they

want for relief purposes? Do they specify these things to other countries or do they allow them to send anything that they like most of which we may find to be quite useless for our purposes?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : We have got a coordination committee both at the Centre and at Calcutta. ..

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Then, why are these things happening?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : ...At the Centre, it consists of various Ministries, and many voluntary organisations are associated with and represented on it. The same is the case at Calcutta. So, the situation is being reviewed, and the various Governments are being kept informed of whatever things are required. So, I do not know how the hon. Member is telling these things and apprehending mismanagement on the part of the Government.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The hon. Minister does not know that such reports have appeared.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Does he eat cod fish?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why do we not tell them in advance if we do not want certain things?

MR. SPEAKER : Let us leave aside the cod fish and pass on to the next question.

Fixation of Minimum Price of Sugarcane

*394. **SHRI D. K. PANDA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the Sen Sugar Inquiry Commission were followed in fixing the minimum price of sugarcane to cover up the bulk line opportunity cost of cane cultivation last year; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The required data in this regard was not available as no comprehensive study aimed at providing information on cost of production of sugarcane and its competing crops in various regions had been undertaken in the recent past. However, in fixing minimum price of sugarcane for 1969-70 Government took into account various factors including available information on cost of production, the return to the grower from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : With regard to my question whether the Sen Commission's recommendations had been implemented last year, that is, in 1970, the answer is quite suggestive of an evasive character, because the hon. Minister refers in his answer only to the years 1968 and 1969. Secondly, there is a frank admission to the effect that they have not implemented the recommendations. Is the hon. Minister aware that these recommendations are also incorporated in the Sugarcane Control Order in fixation of the minimum sugarcane price? Does the hon. Minister not think that the statutory direction in the Sugarcane Control Order is violated by the non-implementation of the recommendations?

SHRI SHER SINGH : I have not evaded. I have accepted that we have not implemented the recommendations of the Sen Commission *vide* answer to (a). I have given the reason. It is because we have not been able to make a comprehensive study which can provide us all the information necessary for knowing the cost of production of Sugarcane and other commodities. The Commission had suggested that we should take into account the opportunity cost; for that, we have to have a clear conception of the prices of other commodities also, the cost of production of sugarcane and also other commercial crops, that is if instead of sugarcane those crops were sown, what would they have yielded. Now we have entrusted this comprehensive study to agricultural universities and agricultural colleges; we have given the work to Universities of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Mysore, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. Expert teams, faculties in this subject and Professors of these subjects are going into it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : When will the work be completed?