

couple of hundred crores for maintaining them—feeding them, giving them medical help, transport and all other things put together. About foreign aid, as I said earlier, the total commitment is about Rs. 99 crores. But so far we have received actually material and cash put together Rs. 8.40 crores. Out of that Rs. 2.06 crores is in cash. The rest is in the pipeline.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Does it mean that the Government will have to come forward with additional taxation proposals for nearly Rs. 200 crores.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : As I said, our estimate is, the additional expenditure will be round about Rs. 200 crores. We will pool the resources. Whether for this purpose some new taxation proposal will be necessary or some voluntary levy by the people—I do not know how it will be collected. But those of us who have expressed our solidarity and support for the people of Bangla Desh will not mind bearing a little more burden to us involved in this.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : May I know the total assistance received from foreign countries in cash and kind for the Bangla Desh refugees and the amount pledged? May I also know whether any Arab countries have extended their assistance? May I know to what extent medical aid, nutrition and clothing have been provided to the refugees?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I have already given the figures. The total commitment of foreign aid including material and other things is Rs. 99 crores. But in fact, we have received only Rs. 8.40 crores worth of cash and material put together. So far as I can see from the list, I do not think any Arab country has come forward with assistance. The only country that has made some offer is UAR, but it has not yet come.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Originally the period estimated was six months. Now when the estimate has gone up to Rs. 400 crores, may I know whether any time schedule has been worked out at 12 months and whether it will go up to Rs. 800 crores when the time goes up to 18 months.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : The hon. Member perhaps has not listened properly. I have said that Rs. 200 crores is the estimate now, because we have exhausted the Rs. 60 crores provided in the budget. The question is about time. We expect that conditions would be created, and created soon, so that the refugees would go back to their homes. But it is very difficult just now to anticipate the exact date whether it would be in six months. It may take a little more time. On one point we are certain that these refugees have to go back.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour over.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Sir, we want a half-an-hour discussion on this because it is an important matter.

MR. SPEAKER : He has to give notice in the normal course.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Appointment of a Committee on Asansol Coal Belt

*1594. **SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have appointed any Committee to report on the affairs of Asansol coal belt ;

(b) if so, the names of Members of the Committee and the terms of reference of the Committee ; and

(c) the time by which the committee is expected to submit its report to Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMAR MANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Strike by Workers of Food Corporation of India, Kerala

*1595. **SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers of Food Corporation of India, Kerala State went on strike on the 5th July, 1971 all over the State, in support of their demands ;