

Visit by Representatives of United Nations High Commission for Refugees to India

* 164. SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF : Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (VIDESH MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) Whether three representatives of the United Nations High Commission for refugees visited India and discussed with the Government of India the specific requirement for relief operations of refugees coming to India from East Bengal; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the discussions held and the decisions arrived at?

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

(b) The dimensions of the problem created by the influx of refugees from East Bengal were explained to the representatives and detailed requirements of foodgrains, shelter, medicines, transport etc. Which were needed to provide relief to a refugee population, estimated at that time at 2.5 million, for a period of 6 months, were given to them. They have since submitted a preliminary report on the basis of which the Secretary General of the United Nations has appealed to all nations and private organisations to provide emergency assistance for the relief of the refugees from East Bengal.

Genocide in East Bengal

* 165. SHRI PROBODH CHANDRA : Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (VIDESH MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware that large scale massacre of innocent people of East Bengal including women and children has been taking place for the last many weeks; and

(b) The steps taking by Government to help them in their hour of distress ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (VIDESH MANTRI) (SHRI

SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have been in constant touch with foreign governments on this matter. A number of foreign governments, including the big powers, have assured us that they are using their influence with the government of Pakistan to stop the use of force and to seek a political solution. Government have extended necessary relief assistance to the millions of people who have been forced to flee to India as a result of the action of the west Pakistan Army in East Bengal.

Study made by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Regarding Pollution of sea Around Bombay

* 166. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA :

SHRI B. N. REDDY :

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SWASTHYA AUR PARIVAR NIYOJAN MANTRI) : be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the attention of the government has been drawn to the study by the Bhabha Atomic Research centre, Bombay about the pollution of the sea around Bombay by the industries in that area;

(b) if so, the gist of the study; and

(c) the steps to be taken by Government to Prevent the pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (NIRMAN AUR AWAS TATHA SWASTHYA AUR PARIVAR NIYOJAN MANTRI) (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT) : (a) The Bhabha Atomic Research centre has not carried out any specific studies on the pollution of sea around Bombay by the industries in that area. The Centre has however carried out some studies which are mainly connected with the control of radioactive contamination of sea water. The results of monitoring of sea water for radioactivity in these studies show that the levels of radioactive contamination are negligibly small and do not give rise to any health hazards.