

under him for ten long years as Secretary of the party over which he Presided. He had the unique distinction of being the Chief Minister of three States. He was first the Prime Minister of Travancore. Then he was Chief Minister of Travancore-Cochin. Finally he became Chief Minister of Kerala. His record of services, his integrity and honesty have left unforgettable footprints on the sands of time. Which paying my humble homage to his hallowed memory I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the leaders of various parties over his death.

SHRI M. MOHAMMAD ISMAIL (Manjeri) : Sir, the late Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai possessed a dynamic and distinguished personality. He was one of the foremost figures in the struggle for freedom of the country. He was a great scholar. At the same time, he had a fund of humour and capacity to tolerate the view of others. His departure from our midst is really a loss not only to Kerala but to the whole country, because he was an outstanding example of what a gentleman should be. I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by all the previous speakers, by you and by the Leader of the house. I request you to convey the condolences of myself and my party, the Muslim League, to the members of the bereaved family.

श्री रघुबीरसिंह शास्त्री (बागपत) : श्रीमान्, श्री पत्तमथानु पिल्ले के निधन से हमारे देश के राजनीतिक क्षितिज का एक वह बहुत चमकता हुआ नक्षत्र अस्त हो गया है। उनका आदर्श जीवन हम सब के लिए प्रेरणा का स्रोत रहा। मैं उन महापुरुष के निधन पर अपने दल की ओर से हार्दिक शोक प्रकट करता हूँ और उन्हें श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ।

MR. SPEAKER : As a mark of respect to the memory of the departed leader, the House may stand in silence for a short while.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION

Mass Exodus of Minority Community from East Pakistan

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*61. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :
SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :
SHRI SAMAR GUHA :
SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people of the minority community who have come from East Pakistan in the year 1970 as also in 1969;

(b) the reasons for this exodus;

(c) whether Government took up this matter with Pakistan; and

(d) if so, with what result ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) 9768 persons belonging to the minority community came over from East Pakistan to India in 1969. During the current year 1,45,595 such persons came over up to 17-7-70.

(b) the exodus is taking place on account of a number of reasons including insecure conditions of living, economic distress and discriminatory treatment meted out to the minority communities in East Pakistan. The situation has been worsened by the propaganda carried out by communal parties during the current election campaign.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) So far the Government of Pakistan have not taken any effective steps to stop this exodus by providing security of life,

property etc. to their minorities. However, we are continuing to press that Government to fulfil their obligations towards their minorities in this respect under the Nehru Liaquat Pact of 1950 and Tashkent Declaration of 1966.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : This being a question of national importance and also a question of sentiment with me because the founder President of my party resigned his seat from the Nehru Cabinet on the question of the fate of the minorities in Pakistan, I would like to give a little background of the situation existing before partition, in a couple of minutes.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We are having a discussion on this subject tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : I would request him to put a supplementary question without any preface or long introduction. We are already going to have a debate on it.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : At the time of the partition of the country a sizable number of minorities were left on both sides. There were about 15 million to 20 million Hindus in Pakistan and about 30 million to 35 million Muslims in our country. Although the demand of Mr. Jinnah and Dr. Ambedkar for the exchange of population was not accepted at that time, the two governments undertook to protect the minorities in their countries. Considering this huge exodus of Hindus to India it is apparent that Pakistan has failed to do its duty. According to our calculation the population of Hindus in Pakistan ought to have been 25 millions. But it is only 9 millions now. So far as Muslims in India are concerned, the population has risen from 35 million to 50 million in 1961 and it is likely to be 60 million in the census of 1971. It is a clear indication that the Pakistan Government has been following a policy of squeeze out, a policy of extermination by creating a sense of terror and by dishonouring the women folk...

MR. SPEAKER : I have requested him to ask a question without giving any background.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : I would have finished by now had I not been interrupted. In this background, considering the large-scale genocide in which 50,000 Hindus were murdered in 1950 and again another 30,000 were murdered in 1964 on the question of the sacred hair of the Prophet, I wish to know whether the government recognises its moral and legal duty to protect the honour and properties of the Hindus who were left behind in Pakistan, as also its responsibility to settle those who have come from that side? In view of that I would like to know as to what long- and short-term measures the Government has adopted to settle those who have come over this side and what it has done to protect the life and honour of those who have been left there; also, whether the Government would like to take up the demand which had been made by Sardar Patel for demanding territory from Pakistan so that those people could be settled thereon otherwise, their coming over here would shatter all our economic plans.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The real responsibility for the protection of minorities in either country, according to the well-known conventions and also under the specific agreements, is upon the country concerned. We are responsible for the protection of minorities in our country and the Pakistan Government is responsible for the protection of minorities in that country. This is not only the well-established international law and convention, which should be followed by all countries, but this was really clothed in the form of a solemn and formal agreement. There is no doubt that in this respect the Pakistan Government signally failed to discharge their responsibility of providing protection to the minorities which has resulted in this continuous migration to this country. Just as we have taken this responsibility upon ourselves, Pakistan Government have also taken this responsibility upon themselves. The best way in which we can achieve this objective is to impress upon the Pakistan Government to discharge their responsibility.

So far as the question of settlement of those unfortunate people, who have come over to this side, is concerned, it is a very

difficult problem. We have got our own problems, but my colleague; the Minister of Rehabilitation, will answer any specific points in that connection that are made to him. However, we are taking steps... .. (Interruption). On the question of resettlement, it is a very painful duty, but we have to discharge that responsibility and we are doing that to the best of our capacity.

I think, it will be very unwise for us to raise such a question as asking for territory because this will accentuate the tense relationship between the two countries and instead of giving any solution to the problem will worsen it. It is both impractical and impolitic. I would appeal to the hon. Member not to be carried away by emotion in this respect.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : You ask us not to be carried away by emotion when 60 lakhs of people have come over from that side and thousands have died there. You are a heartless and cruel set of people. Better, you arouse your emotion. You talk of emotion? You have left the people there lot and you advise us not to be carried away by emotion.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : If these strong adjectives can satisfy his conscience and the unfortunate people, I do not grudge these adjectives. He can use even more of them. We are accustomed to hear such things from the hon. Member..... (Interruption).

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : You are criminals. You divided the country. You have forgotten all the commitments that all your national leaders, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel etc., made in 1947 at 12 O'Clock in the night at the time of partition.

MR. SPEAKER : If the House agrees, we may have him demonstrate for a few minutes ; then, we will resume our work. He may now demonstrate his feelings but he should not interrupt the proceedings.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I have no doubt in my mind that it is both unwise

and impolitic to make such a demand as asking for some territory. This will accentuate the problem even more. I would appeal to the hon. Members not to raise something which is so unpractical, so unreal and so impolitic.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : I would like to know whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the advertisements appearing in the *New York Times* quoting the speeches of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to the effect that there is genocide of Muslims in India.....

MR. SPEAKER : That is not relevant here.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : .. and if so, what steps have the Government taken to gear up its external propaganda machinery to mobilise world public opinion against the genocide of Hindus in Pakistan.....

MR. SPEAKER : You should be relevant to the question. (Interruption) Don't shout please. The Question asked is about the number of people of the minority community who have come from East Pakistan to India. You relate your supplementary to this.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : This arises out of the main Question. Otherwise, there will be no purpose and no fun in asking supplementaries. The above supplementaries do arise out of the main Question. Since we are being dishonoured in the entire world I would like to know what has the Government done to gear up its external propaganda machinery to mobilise the world public opinion against the genocide of Hindus taking place in Pakistan. I would also like to know whether the Government will take up this matter before the UNO or other international forums as it was done up by the refugees, coming from Arab countries and who were successful in getting the aid of the UNO.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I am not sure what the Arab refugees about whom

the hon. Member made a reference got from the discussions in the UNO. That problem continuous and nothing much has happened in that respect. Nothing will be gained by us in raising this matter in the UNO. It is essentially a bilateral problems in which all possible pressures have to be built against Pakistan so that they could realise their responsibility. Therefore, I am quite clear in my mind that raising this matter in the UNO will not yield any result. We should continue to press this in a bilateral manner. In fact, we should be careful to avoid interference by any outside country friendly, neutral or unfriendly, in our relationship with Pakistan. That is the clear line which is in our national interest. That is the only manner in which we can resolve these problems.

श्री बलराज मधोक : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि यह बाइलैट्रल मामला है और हमें पाकिस्तान पर श्रील पौसिबिल प्रेशर डालना चाहिए इस मामले में तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन पिछले 21 सालों में आपने कौन सा प्रेशर डाला और उसका क्या परिणाम निकला ?

क्या आप यह बतला सकते हैं कि जैसे पाकिस्तान बढ़ता है कि भारत के साथ कोई मामला तब तक हल नहीं होगा जब तक काश्मीर का मामला हल नहीं होगा तो क्या आप भी यह कंडिशन लगा सकते हैं कि जब तक पाकिस्तान इन रैपयूज को वापिस नहीं लेगा, यह 4-5 लाख नहीं अपितु 15 मिलियन के करीब लोग हैं, कोई डेढ़ करोड़ लोग हैं जब तक पाकिस्तान इनको वापिस नहीं लेगा या उन्हें इधर बसाने के वास्ते टैरीटेरी नहीं देगा तब तक आप पाकिस्तान के साथ किसी मामले में बातचीत नहीं करेंगे, उस वक्त तक न आप फरक्का के बारे में झुक्के न ही और किसी मामले के बारे में उसके आगे झुक्के ? क्या आप ऐसा कर सकेंगे ? जब आप कहते हैं कि हमें

पाकिस्तान पर श्रील पौसिबिल प्रेशर डालना चाहिए तो मेरा कहना है कि this is the only pressure. You are a Punjabi. You know better, Pakistan knows only one language, Are prepared to use that language or are you only going to bluff us here ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : So far as this aspect is concerned, we have to carefully consider as to whether a purely negative and obstructionist attitude is likely to yield any result. You say, 'We will not talk unless these people are taken back'. 'They say No talk unless Kashmir is scttled.' This thing will continue in this form and the refugees will continue coming. I don't see what we get by adopting this attitude.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : They are coming any way.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I don't accept that they are bound to come. If they are to come any way, what is the use of trying this thing that you are suggesting ? my approach is different. My approach is that this is a matter in which we have to see that these people can stay on there. There is no doubt that they are Pakistan nationals. Just as Muslims and other minorities here are Indian nationals. It is the responsibility of the respective Governments to look after them. It is a bad record on the side of Pakistan.

We All have to continue to press them that they should discharge their responsibility but this sort of tablethumping is not likely to help. This is my considered opinion.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : You read your own words. You said, 'We will put all possible pressure.' I want to know what pressure you are putting.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : May be

strong sentiments expressed here also are a sort of pressure.

SHRI SAMAR GHUA : The problem of exodus of refugees from East Pakistan is essentially a political problem and not a communal problem. Till 1950 it was essentially a communal problem but after the growth of the autonomy movement based on Benagli sentiments in East Pakistan it has turned to be by and large a political issue. It is the conspiracy of the Pindi Government to squeeze out the Bengali population from East Pakistan. If they could, they would have driven out the remaining Muslims from there. The minorities there are not protected here or there. They have chosen these unfortunate minorities. It is the calculated drive of the Pindi Government to drive out the Bengali minorities from East Pakistan to convert East Pakistan into a colony of West Pakistan. This is the whole crux of the problem. I know some communal organizations are playing some communal role but by and large the Bengali Muslims community is a progressive community and they do not want that Hindus should be squeezed out. But it is the Pindi Government which is behind the game. In this House I have tried to draw the attention of the Government on a number of occasions. Unfortunately, the Government—I would accuse the Prime Minister, she has not uttered a single word in defence of the minorities there and the political conspiracy of the Pindi Government to squeeze out the minorities there have done nothing. In this background and the political conspiracy of the Pindi Government I want to know from the Government whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a statement made by the Governor of East Pakistan in which he has categorically denied any migration of the minorities from East Pakistan. If it is so, why is it that when the Prime Minister visited Calcutta—the Basirhat and Hasnabad area is just 35 miles away from Calcutta; 40,000 refugees are still there—the Prime Minister did not take that opportunity to visit that area and by that way draw the attention of the world that the Governor of East Pakistan is completely lying?

Next, Sir, I want to know what is the pressure, diplomatic and political pressure, that the Government wants to put up on the Government of Pindi by taking films of these refugees, by asking foreign correspondents to visit that area with a view to educating world opinion against the policies pursued by the Government of Pakistan. I also want to know whether our Government will withdraw our High Commissioner and also Deputy High Commissioner from Karachi and Dacca as a retaliatory measure and also close the plan service between Karachi and Dacca flying over the Indian territory.

MR. SPEAKER : Be careful in answering it.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Yes, Sir, I must say, I have not studied the statement of the Governor of East Pakistan about which reference has been made. But it is a fact that even in reply to our note the Pakistan Government has stated this and denied the fact of migration or at any rate they strongly dispute the number involved. But we have told them very clearly that their attitude in this respect not based on facts and this is not correct and we have given them a further note giving all the details. About the other points that he has mentioned, to have some films or to invite foreign correspondents to visit these areas. I do not see that any useful purpose will be served.

SHRI SAMAR GHUA : They are showing such refugee films to all the embassies of the world. I only want this film to be shown in the interest of the refugees, and also we should invite foreign correspondents.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I do not expect the hon. Member to agree with whatever I say. This so called idea of winning the sympathy of others is a sort of academic matter which is not likely to help us. Pakistani organisations are issuing advertisements but that is not creating any impact. In fact we are, through our embassies and through our diplomatic channels, apprising all the Governments of the correct state of affairs in this respect and I can assure this honourable House

that in this respect, that is, about informing other countries and Governments about the facts of the situation, we have not left any source or any effort untapped. I don't agree that closing of our High Commissioner's or Deputy High Commissioner's office will serve any purpose.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I say, only withdraw ; it is not a question of closing.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is a matter in which we should try to continue to give whatever little help we can to these unfortunate people and it will be unwise for us to close these channels.

About the stoppage of flights of Pakistani aeroplanes on our territory, it is on a mutual agreement. We fly our aircraft on Pakistani territory, both east and west, and they also use our territory. This is a mutual agreement. We should not have an attitude of snapping all relations and disconnecting everything merely because we feel strongly on a particular issue.

Of course, I share the concern, I share the distress expressed by the hon. Member ; and I have every sympathy for those refugees. But we should also very carefully consider as to what is the best way of bringing solace to those people without snapping the ties. Will these points suggested by the hon. Member really help them ? I am very clear these will not help them.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Your attitude is to fall at the feet of the Pindi Government. That is the only attitude of the Government of India.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : When the Prime Minister visited Calcutta, why did she not visit those areas ? He had asked a specific question which you have not answered.

श्री यशवन्त शर्मा : पाकिस्तान के गत बीस साल के रवैये को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार

ने पाकिस्तान में रह रहे अल्पसंख्यकों के सम्मान, उनकी सम्पत्ति और सुरक्षा के बचाव की दृष्टि से जो कुछ भी उपाय किये हैं अब तक, वे उपाय क्या हैं और क्या वे सदन के सामने रखने की कोशिश करेंगे ?

क्या यह सही नहीं है कि उन उपायों के फलस्वरूप अब तक भी पाकिस्तान का रवैया बदला नहीं है ? यदि यह सही है तो पाकिस्तान के विरुद्ध विश्व में जनमत तैयार करने के लिए क्या सरकार कानूनी संस्थाओं, सामाजिक संस्थाओं तथा राजनीतिक संस्थाओं में इन अल्पसंख्यकों के सम्मान की सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से पाकिस्तान के विरुद्ध राय बताने के लिए कोई उपाय करेगी और इस सम्बन्ध में अपना केस बनाने के लिए, अपने केस को मजबूत करने के लिए क्या भारत सरकार के नेता इस प्रकार की भाषा बोलना बन्द करेंगे जिससे पाकिस्तान को अपने इस केस को मजबूत बनाने में ताकत मिलती हो ? मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि मेरा प्रश्न जरा समझ लीजिये तब उत्तर दीजिये ।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : बहुत सरल भाषा का इस्तेमाल किया है ।

श्री यशवन्त शर्मा : भाईचारे वाली भाषा बोली है ।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : अगर पंजाबी बोलते तो और भी अच्छी तरह मैं समझ लेता । आप बहुत अच्छी पंजाबी बोलते हैं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : दोनों पंजाबी बोलें, मुझे कोई दिक्कत नहीं है ।

श्री यशवन्त शर्मा : दोनों भाषाओं में कोई फर्क नहीं है । केवल कारकों का और क्रियापद का फर्क है । हिन्दी में कहा जाता है "बह कहता है" और पंजाबी में कहा जाता है "भो कैदा है" ।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The first question that he asked was about the steps that had been taken to protect the person and property of the minorities in Pakistan. I have made the position quite clear. So far as the minorities in either country are concerned, it will be wrong for either country to imagine that they can provide protection to the minorities in the other country. That is the basic point...

श्री यशदत्त शर्मा : मैं भाषण सुनना नहीं चाहता हूँ। मैं स्पष्ट जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या टेबल पर रखेंगे। मैंने सीधा प्रश्न किया है और उसका उत्तर भी आप सीधा दिलाएँ। वह भाषण न दें। भाषण सुनने के लिए हम बाहर चले जायेंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सप्लीमेंटरी के वास्ते तो रूल है। मिनिस्टर की रिप्लाय के बारे कोई रूल नहीं है।

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Can he talk anything absurd ?

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : They can talk anything but relevant.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : अबतक जो कार्रवाई की है, उसे सदन पटल पर रखेंगे ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : No country can take effective steps in another country to protect their person and property except to remind that Government of their responsibility. This is what has been done from time to time in the various pacts such as the Nehru-Liaquat Pact, the Mirza-Pant Pact and even the Tashkent Declaration, and this responsibility on either side has been clarified in these pacts.

The second question was about the steps that we should take to build international opinion. As I have said already, we have kept all interested Governments, Governments who we think can have some effective say, fully informed. But I am not

sure whether just advertisements or the like would help ; these are really a crude form of putting across one's viewpoint. This is a very crude way and it does not cut any ice whatsoever.

These were the only two points that he had raised, and I have answered them.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : He has not answered the question. The question was about the publicity material and the propaganda material. Is the hon. Minister prepared to lay on the Table of the House the publicity material that has been supplied to our Embassies exposing the Pakistani side ? Further, is he prepared to give us an assurance to the effect that the Prime Minister and other Ministers will not make statements counter to the facts, which will be used by Pakistan against us ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सवाल उन्होंने पूछा है। उनको आपकी मदद की जरूरत नहीं है।

श्री यशदत्त शर्मा : कोई भी मੈम्बर प्रश्न का रपटीकरण तो माँग सकता है।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is incorrect to say that we have made any statements which can be exploited by others.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : I quoted yesterday.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I do not know what he quoted. He might have quoted something out of context (*Shri Bal Raj Madhok*) : Here it is. If the reference is to those statements made by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister assuring security to our minorities and if they are used anywhere else, I think instead of criticising, we should rather be happy that there are people in this country who can openly come forward to protect the minorities. Our regret is that that there are not more such people in the other country who can be quoted as standing for the protection of minorities. If *Shri Madhok* is

interested, I will not take the time of the House but will show him several statements where the Pakistan propaganda machine has utilised his statements against India.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK They will never. It is the Prime Minister's statements which have been so quoted. She should be more careful.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJi : I concede that we, Bengalis, are an emotional people, I also concede that Pakistan is an independent country and it is, therefore, very difficult to put any kind of pressure that may embitter our relationship. But I will ask a simple question. If this exodus continues perpetually, the entire economy of West Bengal will be broken to pieces. It is not a question of mere rehabilitation. It is a question of the entire economy of West Bengal being shattered. So if by any process of diplomatic pressure nothing can be done to stop this perpetual exodus, what will be the fate of West Bengal ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : (1) We should continue to ensure that this migration stops (2) This should not be a burden on West Bengal only, but the entire country should share it and (3) The unfortunate people who have moved out have to be rehabilitated in India with the co-operation and help of all the States.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : पहले विदेश मंत्री श्री दिनेश सिंह जी ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ में बहुत बड़े रहस्यात्मक तथ्यों का उद्घाटन किया था। उन्होंने कहा था कि पाकिस्तान बनते समय पाकिस्तान के अन्दर डेढ़ करोड़ हिन्दू रह गए थे और जिस अनुपात से पाकिस्तान की जनसंख्या बढ़ी है, उस अनुपात से उनकी आबादी भी बढ़ कर सवा दो करोड़ होनी चाहिए थी लेकिन वहाँ केवल अस्सी लाख ही उनकी आबादी है। जो बाकी के डेढ़ करोड़ हैं उनको या तो वहाँ से निकाल दिया गया है या उनका धर्म परिवर्तन कर दिया गया है या उनको मार

दिया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वर्तमान विदेश मंत्री अपने भूतपूर्व विदेश मंत्री के इस कथन से क्या सहमत हैं और यदि सहमत हैं तो आज दुनिया के सामने इन तथ्यों को क्यों नहीं रखा जाता है ? पिछले आठ महीनों में आठ लाख के लगभग अल्पसंख्यक और आ चुके हैं। जब पाकिस्तान की ओर से इतने बड़े-बड़े एडवर्टिजमेंट न्यूयार्क टाइम्स और दूसरे पत्रों में हिन्दुस्तान के खिलाफ प्रकाशित किये जा रहे हैं तो क्या कारण है कि भारत का विदेश मंत्रालय चुप है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन सारी सच्चाइयों से दुनिया को प्रवृत्त कराने के लिए विदेश मंत्रालय क्या कार्य कर रहा है ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The figures that were given and the reasons that were adduced by the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, in the UN were correct. The reasons he gave and the analysis of the situation he presented to the UN represent the attitude of Government in this respect. The hon. Minister says that it was mentioned in the UN ; still he contends we are not doing anything to apprise the world about the correct state of affairs. I thought the statement by the Foreign Minister of a country in the UN was the best way of apprising the international community about the true state of affairs. It will be wrong and incorrect to suggest that we are silent about this. We are not only bilaterally taking it up but are also keeping other countries fully informed. We are conscious of the great responsibility that devolves on us ; we are also very much aware of the great misfortune of these unfortunate people.

We will do everything that is possible to proceed on the lines which are indicated in the reply to the question.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मेरा कहना यह था—अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने भी सुना होगा—पाकिस्तान और पाकिस्तान के समर्थकों की ओर से प्रधान मंत्री और गृह मंत्री के भाषणों के उद्धरण देकर इतने बड़े बड़े बिज्ञापन न्यूयार्क

टाइम्स में प्रकाशित हो रहे हैं। भारत सरकार इस प्रकार के विज्ञापनों का विरोध करने और अपनी ओर से दुनिया के सामने सच्चाई रखने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है—मैं इन प्रश्नों का उत्तर चाहता हूँ।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I do not think that spending money on advertisements will be the correct way of approaching this.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Will the Prime Minister go to Islamabad to impress upon the President of Pakistan the untold miseries of these unfortunate Pakistani nationals who have come over to India and request him to take personal interest in the matter and see that they are resettled in their own homes and hearths.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : We fully realise the gravity of the situation and I have already sent at a personal level a message to the Pakistani Minister who is in charge of law and order. I have requested him to take special measures and personal interest to ensure stoppage of the movement of refugees.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : As Sardar Swaran Singh says Government has been continuously pressurising Pakistan for the amelioration of the difficulties of the refugees, and I hope, as Sardar Swaran Singh said, it must be a very good pressure, but I would like to know from the Minister how far his pressure has worked so far and the latest reaction of the Government of Pakistan to the pressure which Sardar Swaran Singh has brought on on the Pakistan Government, whether the influx of refugees has been reduced after the pressure or it has increased.

Secondly, as the hon. Minister has said, it is a burden for the whole country, not only for Bengal. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether—you know the Congress President Shri Jagjivan Ram has already appointed a committee to look into the

matter—Government are going to do anything immediately, so that at least some money is granted to the refugees and they are rehabilitated properly.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : We have been taking up this matter with Pakistan, but I would not like strike a very optimistic note by saying that we have succeeded in persuading them to accept their direct responsibility in this respect, but we have to continue this effort. Although there is some decrease in the daily rate of the number of persons who crossed over to West Bengal of late, this may be due to climatic reasons, rain etc. I do not give any credit to the Government of Pakistan for taking effective steps for stopping this. But I would again appeal to the hon. Members. I can understand their sense of disappointment to the response that we might get from Pakistan, but when you think over this calmly, there is no other way. You may build up propaganda offensives, you may use counter adjectives, you may do anything really to bring a bad name to that Government, but that does not help the refugees. That is the essential point that we have to bear in mind. And howsoever frustrating may be the experience, there is no other way except to continue to take up this matter with the Government concerned.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Is the Minister aware of the fact, as we being near the border know, that the overwhelming majority of these refugees are coming from three districts, Jessore, Khulna and Faridpur, and does he know that they are mainly people overwhelmingly drawn from the poorest sections of the Scheduled Castes, landless agricultural labourers and poor peasants, who, politically speaking, are expected to be supporters of Mr. Majibur Rahman's party and other parties which are fighting in the election against the Pindi dictatorship? I ask this question because I should like to know from the hon. Minister that in view of the obvious political developments and feelings which have accumulated there—there is also statement to that effect, for example by Mr. Trilokanath Chakravarty, an old revolutionary who spent half his life in jail and who is visiting our country now, who

has made so any statements from which it is clear that the common people of East Pakistan are not interested in communal trouble but they want to organise a democratic movement for their own rights against Yahya Khans's Government. In view of this, how is it that our Deputy High Commissioner's office in East Pakistan was apparently so unaware of these developments that they could not send any prior information on the basis of which the Government could anticipate when the first trickle of refugees began than a much larger flow was likely to start for political reasons? We find that they were totally unprepared to make any arrangements for their protection and for their shelter. This shows that they were not at all prepared. What sort of reports do they get from the intelligence system of the External Affairs Ministry? The Deputy High Commissioner's office has failed completely. What is the reason for this?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Broadly, I should like to say that there are political reasons also and some communal parties there are responsible.....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : We are quite fed up with the long rigmarole. We want a specific reply. Have they given you prior information? Have they given information to the Rehabilitation Ministry from this Ministry? If so on what date? If not the reason therefor? We are at the end of our patience.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : We did have information that a type of situation is developing there where there will be movement of these unfortunate persons from East Pakistan into West Bengal.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : On what date?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is a continuing process, spread over five or six months; there is no particular date... (Interruptions.) If I am continuously interrupted like this, how can I proceed?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : The Speaker should give us protection. The Minister is all the time giving us cock and bull stories. We want him to tell us whether the intelligence sources of the External Affairs Ministry had cautioned the Rehabilitation Ministry that their would be an exodus and if so when was that caution given first? We want to know that.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I have said that this movement has taken place over the last six months or seven months and I can give the number of persons who moved, monthwise, if he is interested.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I told him that for political reasons they were trying to squeeze out those people who were not likely to support Yahya Khan Government in the elections. Did the Deputy High Commissioner's office give them prior information on the basis of which they could have anticipated this influx and made prior arrangements? Why have they failed to make proper arrangements? Why does he not reply to that question?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : There are two parts to the question. This was one of the causes, not the only causes. There are after causes other... (Interruptions) You cannot by shouting compel me to change my views..... (Interruptions.)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. The Question Hour is over.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (You should give me protection. The Minister takes this house for a ride. (Interruptions).)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order, I very much realise the anxiety of the Members and their excitement. I did not pass on to the next question in view of that, and so we could not go beyond the first question for the day. We have already fixed a discussion on it. I have got here a few names whom I wanted to call for the supplementaries but could not call.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : I wrote to you in respect of the supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a question of catching my eye. I am not going to take note of your writings.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : How are we to catch your eye, Sir ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS *Rose* —

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly sit down. We have fixed a discussion, and I noted down a few names, it is a question of time, what else could be done ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS *Rose*—

श्री राम सेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपकी नजर पकड़ने के लिए कितनी बार उठ बैठना पड़ेगा यह भी तो लोगों को मालूम पड़े ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो डिस्कशन होगा उसमें सभी को चांसेज दिए जायेंगे, घबड़ाने की जरूरत नहीं है ।

श्री राम सेवक यादव : मैंने कम से कम पच्चीस बार उठक बैठक की और बिलकुल आपके सामने बैठा हूँ, फिर भी आपकी नजर नहीं पड़ी ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर 25 मੈम्बर खड़े होंगे पच्चीस बार और में एक को बुलाऊँगा तो 24 फिर भी कहेंगे कि मुझे मौका नहीं मिला ।

This is the only House where we can never make any progress during the Question Hour. In spite of the full time given to it, you are not satisfied. One question for the whole Question Hour, and you are not satisfied over it. There should be a limit.

Let us proceed to the Short Notice Question.

Short Notice Question

Water Level At Bhakra Reservoir

1. S.N.Q. **SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the water level in the Bhakra reservoir has reached the lowest ever ;

(b) how far is it likely to affect the supply of electric power for industrial and domestic purposes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some States are overdrawing thereby adversely affecting the normal supply; and

(d) the steps taken by the Bhakra Management to preserve normalcy ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) This year the lowest level reached was about 1460 in June while in June, 1966 it went even upto 1443. The subsequent inflows, however, are poor this year and the lake level is lower by 90 feet than that of last year at this time.

(b) If the pattern of inflows continues to be as at present, the power production will be reduced by 30 to 40%

(c) The power produced in Bhakra Power House is by agreement divided between the several States in a fixed ratio. No State is drawing appreciably in excess of the fixed ratio.

(d) Bhakra Management Board wants to reduce the generation of power from the present 12.7 million. Kwhrs, daily to 10.00 million kwhrs. to conserve the outflow of water. That is, the outflow from Bhakra is proposed to be reduced from 17,500 cusecs to 13,000 cusecs.

Also, two Power Units are expected to start providing power in the next three to four months and this will help to relieve the load on the Bhakra System and thereby conserve water in the reservoir.