

Facilities to Chakma Refugees

2346. SHRI NARAYAN KAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 110 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd May, 1990 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Chakma refugees are being denied daily rations ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that corruption charges have been made against the camp authorities in distribution of ration etc., and

(c) if so, whether Government have initiated any enquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) No, Sir. However the distribution of rations to Chakma refugees sometimes gets delayed due to technical and transportation difficulties.

(b) There have been allegations of corruption against the camp officials, contractors and others.

(c) The State Government have initiated enquiries into the allegations of corruption. The District Magistrate and S.D.O's have been asked to exercise greater vigilance in this regard.

Cost of keeping Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2347. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual cost of keeping the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is Rs. 25 crores with negligible returns;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the archipelago's land and mass and its waters are huge that even if one-tenth of it were properly utilised for development, the islands would generate employment and become a paying proposition ;

(c) if so, what are the handicaps in its development ; and

(d) the steps being taken to remove the handicaps ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of India has set up a high powered Island Development Authority (IDA) under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, which includes Ministers of all the concerned Ministries. The objective of Island Development Authority is to decide on policies and programmes for integrated environmentally sound development of the Islands (Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep). A steering Committee under the IDA also works out the implementation strategy for the development of the Islands. The Steering Committee is headed by a member of the Planning Commission. A number of developmental projects/schemes have been taken up for implementation in these island territories under the guidance and directions of the Island Development Authority.

D.T.C. Buses/Stands

2348. DR. RATNAKARPAN-DEY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of buses plying between Palika Kendra and Shali