

Bihari Muslims in Bangladesh

1214. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 3 lakhs Bihari Muslims in Bangladesh decided to proceed on a "long march" from Bangladesh to Pakistan through India in the year 1979; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that they have infiltrated into India and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM): (a) The Stranded Pakistani General Repatriation Committee, representing the non-locals in Bangladesh who opted for Pakistan, organised a "long march" to Pakistan through India on 14.8.79 to focus attention on their demand for immediate repatriation to Pakistan. As a result of the precautionary measures taken by the Governments of India and Bangladesh, the "long march" did not materialise.

(b) does not arise.

Employment to Rural Women

1215. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a note of the serious unemployment problem among rural women in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any special steps in the matter exclusively for rural women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARI NATH MISRA): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the inadequate involvement and participation of rural women in income generating activities in rural areas, the Ministry has recently launched a new scheme viz. 'Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas-DWCRA'.

The State/UT Governments have also been asked to accord priority to granting loans and subsidies to households headed by women who qualify for assistance under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

It is also proposed to extend maximum benefit to rural women under the scheme of Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM). Under the guidelines at least one-third of the beneficiaries under TRYSEM are expected to be women.

Donations received by PADI

1216. SHRI P.N. SUKUL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds so far received by People's Action for Development (India) Society by way of donations from the international organisation;

(b) how much out of the said donations are lying in fixed deposits with reasons therefor; and

(c) what projects have been undertaken by the society during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARI NATH MISRA): (a) The People's Action for Development (India) Society (PADI) received financial assistance of Rs. 225.12 lakhs from International Organisation during the last three years (April, 1980 to March, 1983) for approved projects to be implemented by the voluntary agencies.

(b) No amount of financial assistance is lying in the fixed deposits in the name of PADI. However, there is a balance of Rs. 29.22 lakhs in the savings bank account of PADI which is to be released on receipt of satisfactory progress report, utilisation certificate and audited statement of accounts in respect of release of funds made earlier to various project holders.