

(a) What is the number of applications submitted by the East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) refugees to Government during the last three year for compensation for their properties left behind in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh);

(b) what is the number of applications which have since been disposed of during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to expedite the remaining applications;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the staff in the Calcutta office for disposal of pending cases;

(e) whether Government proposes to consider the question of increasing the present rate of paying only 1/4th of the cost of the property and also take the base year for calculation of compensation as the year of payment and not 1967; and

(f) whether Government propose to make the payment of compensation as a measure of rehabilitation and not on the basis of enemy property received and paying out of its proceeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) To ensure expeditious disposal of the claims, a branch office has been opened at Calcutta. The procedure of verification of claims has been streamlined, which, inter-alia, includes exemption of personal appearance of claimants unless any point or points need clarification. Proposals for the strengthening of the Panel as well as staff in Branch Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property at Calcutta is also under consideration.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) According to the decision of the Government an *ad hoc* interim relief in the form of *ex-gratia* grants, from the Consolidated Fund of India at the rate of 25 per cent of the value of the verified claims subject to a maximum of Rs. 25 lakhs will be paid to the Indian nationals/companies, whose assets in Pakistan were seized by the Government of Pakistan during and after Indo-Pak conflict of September, 1965.

News item Urdu caption 'China pushing India out of Japan in sacking'

†1865-E. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times of India' of the 10th January, 1979, under the heading "China pushing India out of Japan in sacking";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Jute delegations from Japan visited India last year as well as early this year. An Indian Jute Delegation, led by the Jute Commissioner, visited Japan last year. These visits have helped in studying the requirements of Japanese market and strengthening bilateral trade relations between the two countries. Appropriate promotional measures have also been initiated to improve our exports to Japan.

†Previous'y Unstarred Question 2108 transferred from the 23rd March, 1979.