

[श्री नरसिंह]

(2) कम्पनी अधिनियम, 1956 की धारा 637 की उपधारा (3) के अधीन विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय (कम्पनी कार्य विभाग) की अधिसूचना सं० का० नि० सं० 477, दिनांक 15 अप्रैल, 1978 की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में)।
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2189/78].

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

PROF. N. M. KAMBLE (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Minutes of the First to Thirty-Seventh Sitzings Of the Committee On the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

PROF. N. M. KAMBLE (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Twenty-second Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Food)—Reservation for, and employment of, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Food Corporation of India.

REPORTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee:—

(i) Seventy-ninth Report on paragraph 6 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1975-76, Union Government (Civil), Revenue Receipts, Volume II. Direct Taxes, relating to arrears of Tax Demand.

(n) Eightieth Report on paragraphs 48, 90 and 94 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1975-76, Union Government (Civil), Revenue Receipts, Volume I, Indirect Taxes, relating to Union Excise Duties.

(iii) Eighty-second Report on Review of Guide-line for 1972-73— Crash Scheme for Rural Employment.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANI-SHANKER JOSHI (Gujarat): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (1977-78) on Extravagant Expenditure on Guest Houses maintained by Public Undertakings and Minutes of the sitting of the Committee relating thereto.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported Large scale Desertion by Refugees from the Dandakaranya Rehabilitation Camp and the Problems arising therefrom

SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAHANTI (Orissa): Sir, I rise to call the attention of the Minister of Works and Housing and Supply and Rehabilitation to the reported large-scale desertion by refugees from the Dandakaranya rehabilitation camp and the problems arising therefrom.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): Sir, there have been

large-scale desertions of displaced persons from former East Pakistan settled as also in *karmi shibirs* awaiting settlement, from the Dandakaranya Project from February 1978 onwards. According to the latest report, 10,394 families (7,353 from settler villages and 2,841 from *karmi shibirs*) have deserted from Dandakaranya Project. Similar desertions have also taken place from other rehabilitation sites as well as worksite camps. The number of families who have so deserted from places outside Dandakaranya is 3,914—1,634 from rehabilitation sites and 2,280 from worksite camps.

The main cause of desertions from within as well as outside Dandakaranya Project is the motivated and false propaganda carried on consistently for some time past by interested elements, notably Udabastu Unnayansil Samity to the effect that there was scope for resettlement of displaced persons in Sunderbans area of West Bengal. Since November

1977 this propaganda had been intensified. This matter was brought to the notice of the Government of West Bengal who intimated in January 1978 that no lands were available either in Sunderbans or any other area of that State for resettling refugees from Dandakaranya. Despite wide publicity given to this fact, the families of displaced persons left rehabilitation site and worksite camps/ *karmi shibirs* in Dandakaranya as well as other areas with a view to seeking settlement in Sunderbans area in West Bengal.

Following the desertions, the Chief Minister, West Bengal met me on 6th March, 1978. The position obtaining in Dandakaranya and the future prospects of irrigation in that area were explained to him. As a result of the discussions, the Chief Minister, West Bengal issued an appeal on the 10th March, 1978, advising settlers to stay on in Dandakaranya since there were no prospects for their settlement in Sunderbans or any other area in West Bengal. This printed appeal was dis-

tributed in the project area by a team of officers consisting of the Director General of Rehabilitation of this Department and the Rehabilitation Commissioner, West Bengal, who were deputed to the Dandakaranya Project from 13th to 18th March, 1978, to meet the settlers. They advised them to stay on there. But they met with only limited response.

Thereafter, a delegation consisting of 2 Ministers (including the Minister of Rehabilitation), 6 MLAs of various Parties and 2 non-officials sponsored by the Government of West Bengal visited the Dandakaranya Project from 21st to 25th March, 1978. The delegation was accompanied by the Chairman & Chief Administrator, Dandakaranya Project, high level officer of the Department of Rehabilitation and the local authorities; Orissa Minister of Rehabilitation also joined the delegation for the first lap of their tour. The delegation made it clear to the settlers that there was absolutely no scope for their settlement in West Bengal and that in their own interest they should stay on in Dandakaranya. They were convinced that on affording Potteru and Satiguda irrigation, the irrigation will be assured and additional crops can be raised. Linkwise another delegation of 2 Ministers was sent by the Government of West Bengal to Bhopal where it met the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and later the delegation went to Hoshangabad where they met the representatives of settlers of various rehabilitation sites in Madhya Pradesh. The delegation also addressed a meeting of the displaced persons in Dolariya Worksite Camp putting them wise about the non-availability of land in Sunderbans and the desirability of their staying on in the Worksite Camp.

The State Government of Orissa, West Bengal and "Madhya Pradesh were also requested" to check the large-scale movement of deserters into West Bengal. Simultaneously, the Government of West Bengal also

[Shri Sikandar Bakht]

decided to return the families. Notwithstanding the normal policy of the Government not to take back the deserter families, in the present case it has been decided to allow the deserter families to return to their villages/fermi shibirs as a special case. Government also has authorised Dandakaranya Development Authority to incur inevitable expenses on food and travel during transit of the returning deserters from their arrival to the site or camp.

Of the deserters, 2,275 families have since been returned by the Government of West Bengal by special trains and bogies. Of these, 1,798 families have arrived in Dandakaranya of whom 1,518 families were dispersed to settlement sites/fermi shibirs. Even from out of those sent back 111 families deserted en route. It is hoped that all the deserter families will see reason and be back at their settlement sites/fermi shibirs especially because of the impending commencement of the kharif season.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Mahanti. Please move a little to your right, nearer the mike, so that we can hear you properly.

SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAHANTI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, that 30 years after the independence of the country there should be an occasion when one has to bring this kind of a Motion before the House is rather sickening and saddening too. The country became independent not without any sacrifices and the maximum sacrifice was made by the people of the former East Bengal and West Punjab. Lakhs and lakhs of them had to come over to India. More than the number of people who came here from East Bengal were those who came from West Punjab. As every Member of the House knows, whatever number of refugees from West Punjab came they were certainly provided for, but certainly they were not given that kind of facility where thousands of people could live to-

gether as in the case of Dandakaranya. But wherever they have gone in the past—they have gone to every nook and corner of the country—they have not only rehabilitated themselves, they have also added to the wealth of those parts of India. Wherever these refugees from West Pakistan have gone and settled, they have become part and parcel of those parts of India.

Sir, it is rather unfortunate that due to some unscrupulous politicians as well as journalists of West Bengal—I am rather sorry to say so—these people who were taken to places like Dandakaranya, Malkangiri and so on, have not been allowed in the past to try to settle themselves down in those places. Even today, efforts are being made to see that they do not settle. The Dandakaranya project, as the hon. Minister has rightly said, is not a project with which either the Government of Orissa or the Government of Madhya Pradesh are directly concerned. It is a project under the Government of India, under the Ministry of Supply and Rehabilitation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAHANTI: The displaced persons have been brought by the Dandakaranya Development Authority in a phased manner from the Mana and the Tawa transit camps in Madhya Pradesh to Malkangiri in Orissa. There are also a few thousand persons who have been settled in the Umerkote zone in Koraput district in Orissa. None from there have migrated either to West Bengal or to any other part of India. There has been no dissatisfaction expressed by these people either in the Mana and the Tawa transit camps or in the Malkangiri area for a period ranging from seven to fourteen years.

The trouble started in the month of November, 1977. It is rather unfortunate, Sir, that a Minister of West Bengal—I do not want to mention his name—visited this Malkangiri camp

and he visited this place on the invitation of a person—Satish Chandra Mandal, the suppose!" leader of an organisation known as 'Udbasthu Unnayansil Samiti'. It is most unfortunate, Sir, that a Minister from one sister State—whatever the occasion might be and from whichever quarter the invitation might have come—should go to another State and that he should not inform the State or the States concerned in this regard. Neither the Orissa Government was informed nor the Government of Madhya Pradesh was informed. Nor even any of the Danda-karanya authorities. During the visit, he also addressed the displaced persons in that camp. From that platform, this man Satish Mandal exhorted the people that it was time for them to leave that camp and to go to West Bengal where plenty of land was there in the Sunderbans. The Minister is not reported to have said anything to the contrary or 'No' to this demand made by this man, Mandal. The report reached the ears of the Government of Orissa. The Chief Minister of the State, Shri Routray, lost no time. He paid a visit to this particular area, met people there and he tried to enquire from them whether there were any difficulties faced by them and whether there were any disabilities which they were suffering from. They did not make any complaints. The Chief Minister came away. Thereafter, immediately after that, as has been said by the hon. Minister, Mr. Bakht, people started leaving the camp in thousands. Perhaps in no single area where displaced persons have been rehabilitated since separation has so much money been spent as has been spent in this area. The DDA authorities have spent Rs. 100 crores on rehabilitation work. It has so far acquired 1,42,134 acres of land from the Government of Orissa, 95,392 acres of land from Madhya Pradesh and out of this land 1,48,000 acres of land have already been reclaimed. About 18,660 families have been settled in 311 villages. All these villages have been equipped

with modern amenities, water being supplied from wells, tubewells, streams and nullahs. Sir, you have been the Governor of Orissa. There are thousands of villages in that State where even drinking water supply has not been given to the people, there are no roads there.

Besides, during the past 15 years, 36 medium and small irrigation schemes costing Rs. 10 crores, 1600 kms. of roads, 200 bridges and 1816 culverts have been constructed as also provisions have been made for educational and medical facilities. Even then at the instigation of unscrupulous persons the people in that camp who have been there for years together have thought it fit to desert the camp. Should any Indian today ever have any cause for thinking that any portion of India is not his own, that he should feel unsafe and insecure in any part of India? It is rather strange that these people, not in tens or hundreds, but in thousands should be instigated to leave these camps along with their families.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude to get clarifications.

SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAH-
ANTI: This is one part of the story.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: The Government of India is thankful to him for giving this information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But time is also important.

SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAH-
ANTI: Certain reports have come out in a few important newspapers—one is the 'Hindu' and the other is the 'Secular Democracy' of 11th April, 1978. This relates to the people of Orissa and the Government of Orissa which is rather painful for me- It says:

[Shri Bhairab Chandra Mahanti.]

"The project officers angrily told them that they were not bound by contract to settle them. All Government and project officers were Oriyas,"

Then it says:

"According to the refugees no project officer or Government official in Orissa ever came to their villages to listen to their complaints."

This has come from one of the persons in the camp from whom the newspaper's correspondent took some information. Look at the Umerkote zone where more than 1200 families are staying. Even if you provoke them, instigate them, not a single family from that area is prepared to leave that centre. Look to Allahabad, Banaras, to my state Orissa. Have not in the past when the country was under the British occupation, thousands and thousands of families from Bengal gone to settle in those places? Why should then these people in the changed circumstances, when the country is independent be made to think that a part and parcel of the Indian territory is alien to them?

Sir, the time is rather short. It is gratifying that the Chief Minister, Shri Jyoti Basu, has come out with a very firm statement, saying that in any case he is not going to entertain a single deserter and not an inch of land in West Bengal will be given to them. I would only request the Minister for Works and Housing and Supply and Rehabilitation and also to the Government of West Bengal to see that the last man deserting this camp is made to return back to Orissa. Otherwise, the good neighbourly relations that have existed from time immemorial between these two States, West Bengal and Orissa, are likely to be affected, that is my apprehension, Sir.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: I am thankful that the hon. Member has already provided a lot of information on behalf of the Government. I can only assure you, Sir, that

we have been in constant touch with the West Bengal Government and we know that a certain situation has been created. But we are trying to solve it with a lot of co-operation between the Central Government and the West Bengal Government. As I have already said quite a large number of families have already returned. We are also making arrangements to receive the rest of the families who have deserted and it might be useful to give this information to the House that we are not only making an effort to receive the families who have deserted back but are also making effort to ensure that there are no more desertions. If I could give a few figures, from out of a population of 8334 families, 5483 have deserted. This is about Malkan Gira. In Paralkote, from out of 7631 families, 2067 only have deserted. We are doing our best between ourselves and the West Bengal Government and we will definitely reduce the misery as much as possible.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): According to the latest information . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, if you want to sit down and speak, we have no objection, because you are not well.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: ... it seems a large number—more than 30,000—are there. By April, 1950, 28,275 had arrived in that small village or township, whatever you call it, of Hasanabad. Sir, the problem is far too serious, I am not going into the bigger social aspect of it. One reason why they have come is because of complete neglect and callousness in Dandakaranya. We have been raising this matter time and again but the Government did not pay attention to the various things that we had brought to their notice which were not very good. As a result of these, they were living in great hardship. Now the exodus has started and it does appear that the Madhya Pradesh Government and even the

Orissa Government are not looking after them even at this stage.

As far as the West Bengal Government is concerned, I do not know what they are trying to do; I do not have detailed information. Some steps are being taken. But here is a matter for the Central Government to come in a much bigger way. The responsibility in this matter, morally and financially, must be that of the Centre. Now some of these refugees who have gone there to Hasanabad are moving also. They require treatment; they require shelter; they require food. These are the immediate steps that should be taken till they are persuaded to go back to Dandakaranya when you make the conditions congenial there. Here the Central Government should come in. It is not a question of just merely discussing with the State Government. That is very essential, of course. But according to me not enough is being done, may be due to lack of resources. Therefore, my suggestion will be that the hon. Minister himself should go to West Bengal, talk to the Chief Minister of West Bengal and find out exactly what and how much they need by way of material assistance, I repeat, material assistance. That is very important. And I think this should be done. It is not enough to send the officers there.

Secondly, there should be arrangement also in the Dandakaranya and other places so that they could be persuaded to go back. By merely telling them that they should go back, they would not go back.

Something more is to be done and, if possible, Sir, Members of the State Legislature and even some Members of Parliament can go there and see for themselves exactly what arrangements have been made by your improved situation and then tell the refugees to go back there. This would be a difficult and trying process as far as I can see. And, therefore, I think that it may not be handled in the typical bureaucratic way. The

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matter is one which should be dealt with at a very high level. Co-operation of the various political parties, mass organisations and others should also be taken in order to settle the problem there. But one thing is obvious, namely, West Bengal may not be in a position to accommodate all those people who have come back to remain there. West Bengal is overpopulated that way. There is no accommodation also. Problems will arise. Conflict will develop locally in a situation of this kind. All these problems will stare in the face. Only I should like to say that it is a matter of profound scheme that after thirty years of independence we have to bear this sight of human tragedy. What else could be a matter of sorry and deep agony than to see that after so many years these men, women and children, emaciated skeletons, neglected, humiliated in life in every respect are driven out to a certain faith in a manner in which they are taken out of Dandakaranya today. We all think that the whole scheme stands condemned. Why they are leaving Dandakaranya is a question to be asked. Why should it be so. Dandakaranya is not in the other planet. It is part of our country. We could have looked after Dandakaranya. If the previous Government neglected, this Government should not do so.

Again, Sir, before I sit down, with all my strength I appeal to the hon'ble Minister let him show a sense of urgency in this matter. Let it be known that the Parliament has taken a very serious view and most sympathetic view of this matter. Let the Minister in charge of the Central Government assure them that he will be on the spot not only in Calcutta but in Hasanabad and other places to look to the interest of the hapless refugees who are now wandering where they will be driven ultimately.

Before I sit down, I would request the Government to make available all the resources, money and material—I repeat, money and material—to the

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.]

West Bengal Government so that they can look after them. Doctors are necessary. Medicine is necessary. Epidemic, I am told, is also spreading in some places. So, Sir, these steps should be taken. I would again implore on the hon'ble Minister that in all such matters where human considerations are involved, not politics but something more deeper and more profound than politics perhaps, it is necessary that personal, human intervention takes place, and it will take place if he himself goes there and looks after the interest of the refugees.

[Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: I share the concern of the hon'ble Member in all its details, and I can assure him that all possible efforts are being made to reduce the difficulties in which the deserters have placed themselves. We are in constant dialogue with the West Bengal Government. The Central Government is fully conscious of the fact that West Bengal cannot take any more persons and they must be brought back. As I have already said, very sincere and honest efforts are being made to bring these refugees and resettle them on the lands which have been given to them.

As far as the question of intensifying the question and persuading them to go back is concerned, I would very much like to enlist the assistance of the hon'ble Member. If he could also lend his good offices for this really noble cause, the Government will welcome it and as suggested by him, we will continue to offer our co-operation to the West Bengal Government and to the refugees to go back and settle.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What about my suggestions? I made some suggestions.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I completely agree with the hon. Shri Mahanti who described that after 31 years of independence it is peculiar

and saddening that this problem should crop up. Actually these people are victims of partition of the country. The responsibility for their rehabilitation and rehabilitation in all senses of the term with full honour and dignity had been a declared national obligation, an obligation undertaken by the national leaders at that time and repeated continuously on the floor of Parliament. In fact, however, the picture is rather different. The complaint is that the same treatment which was given to the refugees from West Pakistan was not meted out to the refugees from, what was at one time, East Pakistan. But we do not envy what was done to the refugees from West Pakistan and what we feel is that what was done was justice, a thing which should have been done. They were also victims of the same partition of the country. The grievance is that the same consideration, same initiative and same amount of funds were not provided for those who had to leave their homes and hearths in what was East Pakistan.

Honourable Shri Mahanti presented, I am afraid, only one side of the picture, that is, desertion by the refugees and he did not enter into the other aspect of it. How is it that after so many years, after the expenditure of hundreds of crores of rupees—and if these rupees were put to good effect—these refugees could be persuaded by motivated persons to leave their homes and hearths? The question is whether they had received any homes and hearths. The hon. Minister gave statistics that about three-fourths of the deserters had left the camp sites, the rehabilitation centres. Camps were referred to by Shri Mahanti as well. Now the question arises: What was actually "the scheme of their rehabilitation? My predecessor speaker, hon. Shri Bhupesh Gupta, said that the DDA Project itself stands condemned. Its successive Chairman had to resign and leave the post because they could not agree with the project that was thrust upon them from the bureaucracy in

Delhi. Now we must take a close look as to why these refugees, after such a long time, could be instigated by the *Udhbasthu Unnyansil Samiti*, regarding whose *mala fides* we have no doubts. I incidentally happen to be a member of the Left Front Committee in West Bengal and there this issue was discussed. Shri Mahanti referred to certain things regarding a Minister of State of West Bengal and that issue was also discussed at the Left Front Committee level. Shri Mahanti said that the Minister went there. I do not know whether the Ministers have got the right to visit any part of the country like that. He went there, of course, without any intimation because it was not an official visit. And he refuted the charge that he in any way encouraged desertion or anything of the sort. But it is a fact that Shri Mandal who has been referred to spoke from the same platform. Perhaps it was a constraint of circumstances that he could not join issues with him. So far as his role is concerned, he did not instigate it. But another fact, a very vital fact, was not referred to by Shri Mahanti. Perhaps on the 6th of March a delegation under the leadership of the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister, West Bengal, Mr. Radhikaranjan Banerjee, accompanied by the Minister for Judicial Department, Mr. Hasim Abdul Halim, an all-party delegation of the Members of the Legislative Assembly, visited the affected area in full co-operation of the DDA authorities and the State Government of Orissa. The State Government did take an initiative in the matter. Perhaps Shri Mahanti referred to that. But there is another aspect of the matter. A very startling thing came out during the course of their visit. Those who were resettled in the area did not have the voting right. They were not allowed the voting right. As Shri Mahanti correctly said, why should an Indian not feel at home and should not have the right to reside in any part of the country? How is it then that a citizen of the country has no voting right in a part

of the country? How did this happen? And what steps were taken to rectify the matter? I do not know what the technical position is. He said that the DDA is the responsibility of the Union Government and the Orissa Government has no direct responsibility in the matter. It is still a fact that the Chief Minister of Orissa Shri Nilmani Routray, visited the area after he came to know of it. How is it that truck-loads of deserters could leave that area without any worthwhile attempt on the part of the Orissa Government, or any other Government for that matter, to stop that? How could it happen without their knowledge?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please be brief. It is not a general debate. You ask specific questions and suggest what you want the Government to do.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: I am sorry. I join my voice with Comrade Bhupesh Gupta when he says that let the Minister of Supply and Rehabilitation go among the refugees and give them an assurance on behalf of the Government of India. That is the first thing. The second thing is that certain decisions were arrived at when the West Bengal delegation went to the area. Some points emanated from the discussions they had had in order to make the life of the refugees bearable, to make them stand on their own legs. The West Bengal Government will surely make available those points. Let the Union Minister work out the details on those points. My proposal to the hon. Minister is that a standing body, a watchdog body, should be set up, consisting of the Members of both the Houses of Parliament, to look after the progress of work in the area. The fact has to be admitted that there have been, failures in this regard—lamentable failures. There has not been the emotional integration which is necessary. The point of view of the West Bengal Government has been every admirably expressed by Minister himself. So

[Shri Sourendra Bhattacharjee] I need not dilate on it. The question emotional integration of these refugees with the local population is very important. We feel that there should be the maximum effort towards it. At the same time various endeavours should be made to ensure that these refugees consider Dandakaranya as their real home and hearth through proper rehabilitation.

Thank you.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: Sir, I am trying my best to look for the question part in the speech of the hon. Member, which contained mostly suggestions and proposals. The subject is really a delicate one and that is why I have been trying my best to avoid to say anything which may be controversial because this is not a subject positively which could be involved in politics; it is a human problem it has got to be dealt with in a human manner. But just out the record straight I do not want to mention anything who others were responsible for instigating them to go. I can assure the Hon. Member that according to whatever passed between me and the Chief Minister of West Bengal, there were quite a few indiscreet observations made by Hon. Shri Ram Chatterjee, if I remember his name right, the Home Minister for West Bengal. He is the Minister of State. "I beg your pardon. And, unfortunately, I do not think that he has yet been properly cautioned to avoid making indiscreet observations. It is very doubtful. I would not like to go into the statistics because this problem is not going to be solved by statistics. I had been avoiding it. But since the Hon. Member mentioned some figures—I do not know the percentage of persons—I have to give some figures. In fact, this problem relates to 1964. It is not 30 years old. It does not make any difference. If it is a 14 years old problem, it is quite as painful as it could be if it were 30 years old. Just to put the record straight statistically, 62,319 families have been rehabilitated, out

of which about 14,000 families have deserted. I have said that we are making all efforts to see that these families do not desert any more. And I assure you that relief and rehabilitation facilities in accordance with the scale and norms already fixed including loans and grants have already been given. About 10,000 more families remain to be rehabilitated, and the Government is committed to fulfil its commitment. It will be done. It is not being done in a callous manner at all, I can assure that. But there is one basic factor, Sir. When such a crucial thing has happened to them, they have been deprived of their homes and hearths, the Government has been offering them assistance to rehabilitate them. But some part of will by the man who is to be rehabilitated is also required for his rehabilitation. Dandakaranya lands are one of the wonderful lands. Quite a lot of it is already irrigated, and very soon the rest of it is also going to be so irrigated that it will give three crops in a year. The Hon. Member asks, "Why have they deserted it?" I would like the Hon. Members to find it out. The Government will try to help as much as it can after they find out the reason. I think the only reason is that there are some persons who are deceiving them and are telling them that Sunderbans will be better to live in and that the environment will be quite similar to that which they have left. That may be the reason. Perhaps they have already succeeded in persuading them to desert this camp. I assure you that if it were not a human approach and things were only bureaucratic, rigid and regulatory, then these deserters would not have been taken back. They are being taken back. The West Bengal Government is also offering them all possible assistance at Hasnabad, as the hon. Member pointed out just now. Similarly whatever deserter families have come back, they are being looked after very properly.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, my humble submission is that this

particular problem is a very big problem, but it must be looked at as a political problem. This is a very big political problem. It is not that Mr. Ram Chatterjee said something and thousands of them started coming out. It is not like that. There must be something serious behind it. It must be looked into as to why this happened at this particular moment and in West Bengal particularly. So far as I know, the West Bengal Government is doing their best to give them relief. They have organised relief camps and they have done whatever is necessary and possible. But many of the refugees do not go to the camps; they will rather rush into the jungle and face dangers to create more problems. So there must be an organised hand behind this. This is what I suppose. The West Bengal Government has stated its policy. All the facts and all the reports are there. Mr. Radhika Ranjan Banerjee and the Law Minister went to Dandakaranya and they have visited that place. They have done everything that could be done and they have said everything that could be said. Still the problem is not solved. Why? Because there are interested hands, interested people, interested political forces who would like to see that the left front Government in West Bengal is down. They want to create problems for the State Governments. They want to see that the left front Government is down. The Rehabilitation Minister has stated that all their problems have not yet been solved. In fact, as soon as he assumed office, he said that he might be the last Rehabilitation Minister and that the Government was going to solve all the problems of rehabilitation in West Bengal in five years. So they started giving them land and other things. But now some interested people are trying to create problems from within and from without. That is the fundamental thing. These refugees have many problems, they have many grievances, I know. But there must be some instigation from the interested circles. I do not want

to defend Mr. Ram Chatterjee. But it is not that somebody said something and so thousands started coming. We must look at it politically. Why did this happen in West Bengal particularly and why at this particular time? That is my point. This is a vital political point. That is my humble submission.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT.- Sir, I do not know what is expected of the Central Government to say in reply to what the hon. Member has said just now because she has made some observations about some political intrigues, and something that the West Bengal Government is expected to do in relation to whatever is the position of law and order in West Bengal. I am very sure that the West Bengal Government is quite competent to deal with the situation when it comes to that.

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK (Orissa); Sir, I want to ask for clarification on a few points. And since this matter relates to a linguistic group moving from one State to another, not to be understood, let me place on record that when I speak, I speak as an Indian and I speak in the language of heart. Now, in this context, I want to say that we should take care of the east coast in general and the coast of Orissa in particular. We cannot allow our these people to move from one place to another like nomads, creating problems. The doors of West Bengal may now be closed for them. And they may be requested to settle where they are. I request the hon. Minister to pay a visit to Dandakaranya immediately and see actually how things are happening. Let us not bring politics into the misery of these people. Let me place on record that we have lost a very valuable patch of forest in Dandakaranya. Again we are going to lose Sunderbans. We cannot just dump money here and there and everywhere. We have made some arrangement. Let

[Shri Harekrushna Mallick]

us stick to it. Let us see how it works and let us explore the possibilities. Let us not destroy the patch of valuable soil. In case the refugees are not willing to settle there, let us not destroy the face of Sunderbans, instead, ask the refugees to migrate to Central India. Another point I want to refer to is that I understand that the valuable land earmarked in Dandakaranya is being purchased away by another agency, mostly coming from Andhra. Orissa has done very well in assimilating the people *coming from* outside. We have provided them every scope for education, for employment and in every other respect. We have improved the conditions of Bengali-speaking people by providing Bengali medium schools. But I do not want a situation where a part of Orissa will be under the dual control of Orissa and West Bengal. That we do not want. Therefore, I seek the intervention of the Central Government. The Central Government should have a direct understanding there and see how best the problem can be solved. How best the refugees could behave. The Orissans treat them as their own brothers and sisters. The people who came from West Bengal are supposed to be happy. The refugees should live here like any other Indians. They are not only getting facilities for themselves, they are getting proper attention also. And yet, what is the actual difficulty there? That is what we have to understand. We fail to understand the psychology of the people. There should not be any politics in this. I am sorry to find that even after 30 years they still claim to be refugees in spite of best efforts to settle them. I am glad that honourable friends who really represent the hard core of West Bengal Government today, i.e., those from CPM, have put on record their feelings, but a few other hon. member say that they should be provided with more money. But I would respectfully submit that

no money and no machinery should be just dumped by the Central Government in different directions only to misuse. Therefore, we should be very specific and our planning must be exact and accurate to tackle this problem.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: The honourable Member has only apprised the House of his own reactions to the problem. I do not think there was any question for me to answer.

SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, really a sorry state of affairs is obtaining among the refugees. Their living conditions and other conditions are very, very bad. It is learnt that many of them have died. I do not know whether anybody has investigated the matter. At present the West Bengal Government trying its best to give relief to these hapless people. I must admit that, although I do not see eye to eye with that Government. But the Central Government must take upon itself this responsibility and give more funds. It is not possible for the West Bengal Government to give all relief itself. I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention one fact. West Bengal is now run by the left front. And these people instigated those refugees saying that there is ample space in West Bengal and they must be rehabilitated to India. The Communist Party, at that time Mr. Bhupesh Gupta . . .

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: When?

SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE: . . . said they should not be sent back outside Bengal. When the new Government came, these people thought it was time for them to go back as the Left Front Government had said that there was ample place in West Bengal. This is one of the psychological factors. However, I do not want make it a political issue. It should be our endeavour to see that they are again

sent back to Dandakaranya and in the meantime they are given temporary relief so that valuable lives are not lost. This is my humble submission.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: The hon. Member has only repeated what others had said earlier and, therefore, I do not have anything to add to what I have already said.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA (Orissa): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I will not make even any introductory remarks. I will just put a few questions and seek certain clarifications from the hon. Minister . . .

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: I cannot hear you. You are not audible.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please be a little brief and loud.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: I am putting only a few questions . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please be a little loud and clear.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: Please try to listen to me. . .

श्री उपसभापति : आप आगे आ जाइये ।

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: In his brief statement, the hon. Minister has stated that there was motivated and false propaganda by a section of the people that these people can be resettled in Sundarbans and therefore there was this large-scale desertion. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has got this matter inquired into as to who is the person who made this motivated and false propaganda. During the course of discussion I found that there is a lurking suspicion in the minds of some friends about some specific groups doing this. Why should the Minister hesitate to tell us who are asking these people to desert these areas and go over to Sundarbans. This vague and general reply will not satisfy us. If we

know who they are, we can be a little more careful. He should be very clear and specific in his reply.

The other issue is very important. A large number of families who have been there for so many years have been deserting these areas. During the past also we had heard of desertions from Mana camp and this year it has taken place in Dandakaranya and some other place. I would request the hon. Minister to specifically state who are. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already said that. Now your next question please.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: My second question is whether it is actually this motivated and false propaganda that has made this large-scale desertion possible or there are deeper reasons for it. What steps have you taken to find out the real causes, instead of saying that this has happened due to motivated and false propaganda. My third question is whether the hon. Minister is

prepared to send a Parliamentary delegation to study the problem on the spot and make a report to the Parliament. I want specific answers from the hon. Minister on these three points.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: While speaking on the Calling Attention Motion, the hon. Mr. Mahanti had given the name of one Mr. Satish Chandra Mandal. He and some of the persons around him have been responsible for initiating this sort of instigation. And, Sir, this 1 p. M. was given an impetus by some indiscreet observations made by Shri Ram Chatterjee. This is answer to question No. 1. Then, answer to question No. 2 is this-. All sorts of teams are being sent to assist

[Shri Sikandar Bakht]

in tackling the problem and, accordingly, preparation are being made. But, if there is any need for sending any further teams, they will go. Then, what was the third question, Sir? I have forgotten.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is about sending a parliamentary delegation.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: I have already said about that. I have offered the suggestion to the Members of Parliament that they should form themselves into a group of their own, go there, assist the people there and inform me and the Government can get whatever information they can gather there.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing the 2nd May, 1978, will consist of consideration and return of the following Bills as passed by the Lok Sabha:

1. The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1978.
2. The Finance Bill, 1978.

ALLOCATION OF TIME FOR DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held today, the 28th April, 1978, allocated time as follows for Government

ment Legislative Business to be taken up during the current Session of the Rajya Sabha:—

Business

Time Allotted

Consideration and return of the following Bills, as passed by the Lok Sabha :

- (i) The Appropriation Bill, 1978. 2 days:—on the 2nd and 3rd May, 1978.
- (ii) The Finance Bill, 1978. 2 days:—on the 4th and 8th May, 1978.

The Minister will reply on the 9th May, 1978.

The Committee also recommended that the House should sit up to 6.00 P.M. daily and beyond 6.00 P.M. as and when necessary for the transaction of Government Business.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, with regard to the business for the next week, we are not very clear about a few things. First of all, we should like to know what has happened to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill. As far as we understand, it will only be introduced in the other House. So, it is not coming here. Sir, we have read in the papers that the Second Interim Report of the Shah Commission has been presented to the Government, the first having already been given to them. Now, Sir, we would like to know why these are not being made available to the Members of Parliament. We are told that they are being processed by a Committee of Secretaries. Let them process them; we have no objection to it. But we would like to have them. Now, why do I say these things? Because there can be an interim discussion on the Reports also. Now, two Reports have come; two Interim Reports, as they are called, have come. These should be brought to the notice of Parliament. This is a matter which concerns Parliament very much and the Members of Parliament are an insti-