

Grant of Citizenship to the Displaced Persons from Pakistan

1179. SHRI S. W. DHABE:

SHRI BAPURAOJI MAROT-
RAOJI DESHMUKH;

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA
PANT;

SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA;

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to grant Indian citizenship to 60,000 displaced persons who crossed over to India from Sindh in Pakistan in 1971 and are at present staying in refugee camps in Rajasthan and Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir. This concerns 55,000 displaced persons, approximately.

(b) Government have decided to grant Indian citizenship to these DPs, after a quick case by case examination. In this connection, the Ministry of Home Affairs have issued detailed instructions/guide-lines to the Governments of Rajasthan and Gujarat on 14th April, 1978. The grant of Indian Citizenship is in progress.

Tehri Dam

1180. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rs. 400 crore Tehri Dam Project in U.P. is facing agitation by the local population;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that about 70,000 people are likely to be displaced by the construction of the dam; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) It is a fact that some local people have been agitating against the construction of the Tehri Dam Project. The agitation is on the ground that the location of the dam is unsuitable, being situated in earthquake prone region of poor geology and that the reservoir will silt up soon. The U.P. Government had arranged many meetings and discussions to remove the apprehensions about the safety of the dam. In these meetings and discussions apart from the experts of Geological Survey of India and School of Training and Research in Earthquake Engineering, University of Roorkee, the local M.P., M.L.As. M.L.C. as well as other representatives of the Public and the Tehri Bandh Virodhi Sangharsha Samiti and the Experts named by the Samiti had taken part. The experts of the Geological Survey of India and School of Earthquake Engineering had explained in detail the geological, seismological and siltation aspects and had opined that the site is suitable for the construction of the high dam.

(c) and (d) Only about 18 to 20 thousand people of the affected villages and Tehri Town will be displaced. The U.P. Government have taken the following measures for their rehabilitation:

1. For rural population.

(i) For cultivated land liberal rates for *ex gratia* payment in addition to compensation at market rate, have been sanctioned.

(ii) Displacement grant at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per family