

English and Hindi) of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Shipping Development Fund Committee for the Year 1972-73, together with the Audit Report on the Accounts. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8425/71.]

Indian Telegraph (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1974

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications (Posts and Telegraph Board) Notification G.S.R. No. 935, dated the 22nd August, 1974, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1974. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8414/74.]

Coal Mines Labour Housing and General Welfare Fund (Recruitment to Class III and Class IV posts) Recruitment Amendment Rules, 1974

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Labour Notification G.S.R. No. 872, dated the 26th July, 1974, publishing the Coal Mines Labour Housing and General Welfare Fund (Recruitment to Class III and Class IV Posts) Recruitment Amendment Rules, 1974, together with a statement giving reasons for delay in laying the notification. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8413/74.]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported police firing on refugees at the Mana Camp on 8th September, 1974

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Supply and Rehabilitation to the reported Police firing on refugees at the Mana refugee camp in Madhya Pradesh, on the 8th September, 1974, resulting in the death of three persons and injuries to several others.

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHA-DILKAR): Sir, . . .

According to the message received from the Chief Commandant, Mana, Raipur (M.P.) there was some trouble due to group rivalries among the migrants from former East Pakistan in the Mana Camp. On the night of the 7th-8th September, 1974, a police patrol party was attacked and CRP Inspector was stabbed. 45 policemen, two police officers, a magistrate and the Chief Commandant were injured by stone throwing by a mob of four to five thousand. Police opened fire in self-defence. 12 persons were injured due to the firing and 3 people died. The injured persons have been admitted to the Hospital. The situation is reported to be under control.

The Government regret the incidents that have taken place and are most anxious to restore peace and normalcy immediately. A Magisterial enquiry is reported to have been ordered by the District Magistrate. Further necessary action is being taken by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to restore normal conditions. The hon. Members may rest assure that there will be full cooperation between the camp authorities and the authorities of the State Government in restoring normal conditions. It is also expected that the inmates of the Camp will cooperate fully in this matter. The Department of Rehabilitation is also sending an officer from Delhi to obtain first hand report on the latest situation.

The hon. Members will recall that the Mana Camp had about 20,000 families of migrants from former East Pakistan at the end of 1973. The Department of Rehabilitation have prepared a programme for dispersal of migrant families to various rehabilitation projects and work-site camps and are making every effort to send the families to the various rehabilitation sites/work sites camps according to the schedule. The number of families that have been dispersed during 1974 from Mana is of the order of 3,000.

It is in the interest of the inmates of the camp to help in this programme of dispersal of families from Mana. With this end in view cash allowance of the families who are being sent to the rehabilitation

sites and work site camp in Tawa Irrigation Project has recently been increased by Rs. 10/- per member of the family. Opportunities have also been provided for work in rehabilitation sites and work on pre-resettlement operations has been arranged so that able bodied members of the families could earn wages in addition to the cash allowance as recently liberalised. The cash allowance in Mana Camp as well as State Camps administered by the States has recently also been raised by Rs. 5/- per member of the family.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, death either by shooting or due to starvation has become a part of our normal life in the country after 27 years of independence, whether it is a school teacher in Cooch-Behar or a refugee in the Mana Camp. Sir, over 5.2 million people were driven out of East Pakistan at the point of bayonet and they came here in search of security and peace. But now they are victims of gunfire.

Sir, never before in history such a large number of people, such a large group of uprooted humanity, have been so badly betrayed, cheated and let down. Being rootless, the people, for the last twenty years, are drifting from one camp to another and are adding to the number of beggars in the streets and these people who have been callously cheated are now being described as idlers. Sir, the problem cannot be discussed in isolation. The whole problem of these people, of accumulated indignation of these 5.2 million or so, whether they are in Mana or elsewhere, is because of calculated discrimination against the refugees who came from East Pakistan. Sir, I am having a book in my hands which has been published by the Government of West Bengal and is entitled "A Master Plan for the Economic Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons". Now, Sir, may I ask the honourable Minister very humbly—I am a quiet person, you see, in the House—whether it is not a fact that up till 31st March, 1973, you have spent only Rs. 7 crores by way of rehabilitation grants, only Rs. 7 crores, for these five million people? No compensation has been paid to the East Bengal refugees for the immovable properties left behind by them though a sum of Rs. 191.16 crores was paid to the West Pakistan refugees on the

same account. A comparative study of the expenditure incurred so far on the rehabilitation of the refugees from the Eastern and Western wings of Pakistan reveals absolute discrimination. Up to 31st March, 1973, is it not a fact Mr. Khadilkar—you were not a bad man as the Labour Minister, but are becoming bad as the Minister of Rehabilitation—that only a sum of Rs. 85 crores was spent on the rehabilitation of the refugees from Bengal while Rs. 115 crores were spent on the refugees, on the rehabilitation of those refugees who had migrated from West Pakistan? No compensation has been paid to the former, that is, the refugees from East Pakistan for the properties left behind by them in East Pakistan and you have admitted in your statement that proper payment of compensation for the abandoned properties in West Pakistan, led to the rehabilitation of the refugees from West Pakistan. The refugees from West Pakistan received by way of compensation of about Rs. 191.00 crores upto 31st March, 1973. The 10.03 refugee families from West Pakistan—5.68 lakh families settled in rural areas and 4.45 lakh families settled in urban areas—have received compensation. In other words, it means that each and every one of the 47.40 lakh West Pakistan refugees have received compensation. Mr. Khadilkar, you are aware that even the refugees from the Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir area were granted *ex-gratia* payment for the Properties left behind by them in lieu of compensation.

"The Muslim evacuees who went to Pakistan left behind in India 5 lac urban properties in the form of houses, shops, industries, etc. 6.50 lac village-houses and 60 lac acres of farm land. These properties were scattered all over India including Bihar and Orissa in the eastern region. The total value of all these was estimated at Rs. 250 crores. . . The rest of the properties, i.e. 6.50 lac village houses in Punjab-Haryana (excluding the few worth Rs. 20,000 or more) and 60 lac acres of farm land, the total value of which was Rs. 150 crores, were distributed among or occupied by the refugees from West Pakistan. In addition to the compensation for immovable properties, crores of rupees were paid to West Pakistan refugees in settlement of their claims for compensation for a

[Shri Kalyan Roy]

large number of items, such as contractors' bills, earnest moneys, securities, deposits, provident funds, salaries, scholarships, dividends, shares, pensions, damage claims, untransferred bank deposits, postal insurance policies, etc. The claims for compensation on these accounts were dealt with by the Central Claims Organisation set up by the Government of India in May, 1955 . . . Leaving aside the value of those miscellaneous benefits, the value of financial assistance received by the West Pakistan refugees comes to Rs. 341 crores in addition to Rs. 115 crores spent on their direct rehabilitation. Thus the total sum spent on their direct resettlement, excluding educational and medical facilities, comes to Rs. 456 crores as against Rs. 85 crores spent on the direct rehabilitation, excluding educational and medical facilities, of East Bengal refugees. . ."

Is it not a fact that in respect of Dandakaranya, the original plan was to rehabilitate, according to the Estimate Committee Report, 35000, but later on it was reduced to only 15000?

In a nutshell, may I ask how long he expects these refugees from East Pakistan to tolerate these insults, discrimination and humiliation? Lastly, Sir, is it not a fact that one lakh of these refugees have been rotting for the last ten years and you are refusing to rehabilitate them in Andaman because of vested interests, because of opposition from the bureaucracy and because of your total negligence to do something about them? The whole Master Plan submitted by the West Bengal Government has been scuttled. The only policy they have for these refugees is to scatter them like autumn leaves. And if they agitate, if they demand resettlement, proper rehabilitation, the CRP is there. Can you dream, Sir, that after 27 years of independence—you have been in politics for such a long time, perhaps since I was born—of a camp with a Commandant? What is Mana Camp? It is a concentration camp. . . (Time bell rings)? Is it the way you treat your refugees? Is it the way you treat people who came on your invitation? There is shooting. This is not the last shooting. You may shoot down the workers, the peasants and

others. But you would not be very safe in your seat, either as Minister of Labour or Rehabilitation. . . (Time bell rings).

Sir, I have not taken much time. Will you stop this discrimination? Will you not treat them on par with West Pakistan refugees? Won't you rehabilitate them, give them land, and also see that Andaman is properly developed and they are sent to Andaman to settle there?

Lastly, Sir, I hope you would agree with me—you have not agreed to a probe by a Parliamentary Committee into the licence scandal—that a Parliamentary Committee should go into the firing or there should be a judicial inquiry.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Sir, I thought you would restrain him, because he has covered a very, very vast canvas, and he has covered the entire refugee problem of former East Pakistan *vis-a-vis* Bengal, and charged the Government with discrimination. I would like to make certain things very clear, which otherwise I would have avoided. Let me make it very clear for his benefit that even recently when 98 lakh refugees came to India, when I was in charge, and about Rs. 300 crores were spent on them, they were sent back without any complaints anywhere; there was no complaint, no epidemic, nothing . . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): No complaint? Wrong. .

(Interruptions)

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: All MPs are there. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: He is misleading the House.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: So far as our Government is concerned, let me assure the House; they will feel proud; even the International organisation in their report to the High Commission have complimented India. Nowhere in the world has any country any time faced such a tremendous refugee problem. And for this, India has drawn practically nothing except minor help. . .

SHRI KALYAN ROY: On a point of order, Sir. The Calling Attention is about the refugees and we confine ourselves

to that problem and about who came here for resettlement? and all that. The hon. Minister is talking about the people who came in order to go back and he is taking pride of that. . .

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Now he referred to other broad issues and when I come to Mana, I will explain. Since he came late, he forgot everything except the enquiry part. I must reassure the honourable House that so far as the former East Pakistan and Bengal refugees are concerned, as well as the West, the usual charge levelled against us is some sort of discrimination. This charge was levelled in the other House and if a separate motion is brought forward, I am prepared to face all the charges. . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Yes, it should be done.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: For his benefit I may mention now how much we have spent on these people who came to India from former East Pakistan. That much I may mention. The total expenditure incurred on relief and rehabilitation of refugees from former East Pakistan, upto 31st March, 1974, was Rs. 401.56 crores approximately. . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: That was frittered away in doles. . .

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: . . . and on Bangladesh refugees upto 31st March, 1974, the total expenditure incurred was about Rs. 300 crores. This will clearly explain the condition. So far as we are concerned—the Department and the Government—we are treating the refugee problem on par. . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: No, no, absolutely wrong.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are to speak on your turn.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Therefore, the charge levelled against the Ministry, of discrimination, is wrong. If they have the proof, they must come forward. We are prepared to reply. One thing is there. So far as the West and the East is concerned,

as you know, Bengal is very heavily populated and most of the Bengalis came back for settlement and as you know. . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: No settlement; they are roaming about.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: No settlement was possible, I agree. Now there is no East Pakistan; it is Bangladesh and I must say in fairness that those who want to utilise this, they will do according to the law. Whatever was feasible under the circumstances, was done. 98 lakh refugees have been admitted and they are settled in Bangladesh. Keeping these facts in view, to level a charge against the Government of discrimination, is totally wrong.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The Congress Government under Siddhartha Shankar Ray made the charge.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Then recently we had some talks with the Bengal Chief Minister and the Bengal Chief Minister and the Planning Minister agreed and we have done something which we have never done before. Most of the loans have been written off. I can give the figures.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: That is also not true.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: But if the Bengal Government fails to do anything, are we responsible? These agreements have been honoured by us. If they fail to respond to certain agreements, it is for them to take it up.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: You have not done anything; you are standing in the way.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: So far as Mana is concerned, we are doing everything possible to settle them. In these difficult days, quite a number of States have come forward. But it is always difficult. You must remember that it is not easy to settle a refugee. Mr. Niren Ghosh is not married. So, he does not know what a family life is. . . (Interruptions)

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN (Kerala): The Minister is not a refugee. He should understand the refugee problem.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): May I know, Sir, by having been married has he become wiser or something else?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: He is also another bachelor in this House. Sir, so far as the Mana Camp is concerned, we are very conscious about it, and in my statement, I have made it clear that we have dispersed about 3,000 families in this year. We are trying to disperse another 10,000 or so wherever they could be properly settled, whether in Orissa or Maharashtra or Karnataka or Andhra or Madhya Pradesh or anywhere. So, to charge like this is wrong. So far as Andaman is concerned, I have replied earlier that it is a special category. We want to develop it in an overall way. I want to tell the hon. Member one thing. The ex-army people have got a colony there. We must look to the defence side also. . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: What do you mean by that? Do they go and defend?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: So far as the enquiry is concerned, we will take it up, if necessary. It is a law and order matter. It is a matter left to the Madhya Pradesh Government. They have ordered a magisterial enquiry. They have done, I must say. . .

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Why not a parliamentary probe?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: That is out of question. It is a small matter. As I have said earlier, there were some party and group fights and all that happened. As you know the Bengali temper, the group fights are going on in the camp. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN ROY: On a point of order, Sir. He says, "As you know the Bengali temper, the group fights. . ." What does he mean by it? He did not reply to my question. Originally, the plan was to resettle 30,000 refugees in that area. He scuttled it down painfully to 12,000. They have been allowed to rot

since 1964. Mr. Khadilkar, you have failed miserably. Don't add insult to the injury.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: About the group fights, you judge for yourself. I am saying that because of certain factions fights, the atmosphere was disturbed. . . (Interruptions) In this camp, there are two groups, one group led by the INTUC—the Home Ministry circular is there—and another group led by others. They always fight. There are certain merchants who also fight. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri N. R. Choudhury . . .

Sir, I have been carefully listening to the reply of the Minister . . . In his reply, he denied the charge made by Mr. Kalyan Roy and said that there has not been any discrimination in the Rehabilitation programme between the West Pakistan refugees and the East Pakistan refugees. Sir, I agree that it is not a part of this Call Attention notice. But the fact remains that the refugee problem in eastern India has not yet been solved. And it has been solved in the western side. Sir, if we examine how the East Pakistan refugees had been rehabilitated and how the West Pakistan refugees had been rehabilitated, I think, the Minister will be convinced that there has been discrimination. Sir, this refugee problem has crippled the economy of the whole of eastern India. He was referring to Bengal only. It has crippled the economy of the whole of eastern India. Sir, this problem is there not only in Bengal but, as you know, in Assam also. I do not know the exact number but some thousands of people are still in camps in Assam itself. Apart from that, they are also in camps in other parts of the country.

Sir, the very existence of refugee camps proves that the problem in the eastern sector has not been solved. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to solve this problem. I would like to know from the hon. Minister for how long are these refugees going to be kept in camps. This camp life is a very bad life and is a disagreeable one. It invites corruption, the way these

camps are managed. He said that the trouble arose out of group rivalries. I have seen the refugee camps. I have got personal experience. I have my own relations in camps. I have seen how these refugees are treated in camps. Mr. Kalvan Roy has just equalised the refugee camps with concentration camps. I am not going to do that. But, I would still say that these camps are not well managed. The camp commandants are there in these camps. He has got a chain of people under him who often resort to torture and several vices take place in camps. Sir, the hon. Minister has said that there was group rivalry in the camp. It needs a thorough probe by whatever machinery he deems fit. It needs a thorough probe because this group rivalry is the product of the mismanagement by the camp commandant or who ever may be there. Those people indulge in this groupism because of these vices which takes place there. There is also a good deal of corruption, including misappropriation of money. All these things take place with the help of certain touts who are there among the refugees. You may give them any name, I.N.T.U.C. or any other thing, but every time we find in all the camps some corrupt practices and vices are being indulged in by the management. Sir, I say it categorically because I have personal knowledge about such vices. All these things take place in the camps and to the pleasure of camp authorities and those people who collide with them or are in league with the camp authorities, the corrupt officials, they get some favour and they get certain amount of preference in the rehabilitation programme.

Sir, the hon. Minister said that there was group rivalry but he did not say what that group rivalry was for. He only said that there was group rivalry and a police patrol party was there which was attacked. Nobody will attack a police party unnecessarily and without any reason. There must be some reason behind that. Sir, is the camp commandant and his people are resorting to corrupt practices and vices in collusion with some people, whom they call to be the leaders of some group. There were some others who were genuinely opposed to it and a clash arose between the so

called touts of the camp authorities and the real leaders of the refugees. That is how things take place. I do not know the exact position in the Mana camp but I have my experience about the working of other camps. What happens is that the camp commandant calls the police and there is a clash between those people and the police and so firing takes place.

Sir, from Minister's reply we have not been able to get a clear picture. Sir, I know the Minister is a good man but he should agree to a probe of whatever nature he pleases, that he has to decide; but there must be some sort of an impartial probe to find out the truth in the interests of rehabilitation and in the interests of national prestige.

Before I conclude, Sir, I would like to know for how long he is going to keep these refugees in these camps. He should answer this point. This rehabilitation programme must be expedited and completed as soon as possible.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: The hon. Member is right so far as East India is concerned. Apart from other problems because of the refugee problem there is a certain amount of poverty and general backwardness; I agree with him. And therefore development is lacking. But so far as the question of settlement of refugees is concerned for his information I would like to give him some figures. 11,13,958 migrants came to India from former East Pakistan between 1st January, 1964 and 25th March, 1971. Till 31st December, 1973, 49,108 families have been rehabilitated. So our performance is not that bad as he depicts. Sir, the Government is very anxious that all refugees, all uprooted people must as far as possible be settled somewhere with some land or profession or whatever their former calling was but with all our efforts we are not successful entirely in liquidating the problem. That I must confess. Therefore I would request—as he himself has said—that Members of the House must co-operate with the Government in the resettlement efforts particularly in the States.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: You are for non-settlement.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: As he just now said with uprooted people living for years in camps, thousands of them together, something of this nature is bound to come up. Even in ordinary life it will happen and so to accuse the Commandant of corruption or of encouraging all these things is very unfair. As I said earlier, in a situation of this sort. . .

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: Sir, whatever I said, I said on the basis of my own experience. Of course I know nothing about the Mana Camp but I have experience of refugee camps in my area and it was on the basis of that I was saying that these things happen.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: So far as corruption is concerned, as you know, unfortunately it has become a part of our social life, an element in our social life and we must try to eradicate it. That is our main effort. So I must assure my hon. friend that everything possible is being done. So far as the discrimination part is concerned I would like to tell him that I feel that we must be specific instead of making a vague charge and if it is proved Government must be brought to book. Otherwise making a vague charge has no meaning. Yet the Government is trying to do justice as far as possible.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: Sir, one specific question I asked whether the Minister is prepared to accept an impartial probe by whatever machinery he deems fit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. No further question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, I served as a Member of the Cabinet High-Power Committee on Refugee Rehabilitation. So what I speak, I speak with authority. You should understand that. That Committee and the Government of West Bengal under Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, Congress Government, has made a definite charge of differential and unequal treatment. They have used the word 'discriminatory' but I am not using that deliberately. Now, Sir, since he has doled out some figures I should like to tell you these are fictitious figures in a sense. Can he give the figures of lakhs and lakhs of acres that have been given to the refugees from West Pakistan? Besides, lakhs of houses have been found for them.

More than 2 lakhs have been found jobs through Employment Exchanges and you will be surprised there is now in existence for them a Settlement Commissioner, a Central Claims Organisation, Custodian of Deposits, G.P. Accounts, Pay and Rehabilitation Officer. They are all there for the West Pakistan refugees. This is on record. As regards this particular project I speak with authority that about 30 lakhs have not been still rehabilitated. The total is 60 lakhs. You have spent money on doles and you are keeping them on doles making them beggars and prostitutes but you have done nothing by way of rehabilitation for them. At least 23 modern townships are built for the refugees from West Pakistan but nothing for those from East Pakistan. So, if you add up the figure, it will come to anything like Rs. 2,000 crores by way of houses, etc. Government has done anything and everything for them and almost nothing for these people. That is my experience as a member of that committee. And Government have refused to spend money for that purpose. This is the position.

Sir, now you will see—he admits—there are 20,000 unsettled families after 20 years in the Mana Camp. That very fact itself speaks what the Government has done—apart from the other figures that I have given. Then, instead of 35,000 families for Dandakaranya, it has been reduced to 12,000 families and now it is further cut down to 7,000 families. And what does the Estimates Committee say? It has not been possible to prepare the Master Plan for Dandakaranya due to lack of suitable personnel and inadequate data for that area. That is your performance. Not only that, Sir.

For several years complaints have been made against the Commandant that he has been using refugee girls for immoral purposes in order to earn money. This Camp Commandant has been trafficking in refugee women! From the Consultative Committee a team of M.Ps. has gone there. They know it and they saw it but still that Commandant has been retained there. It is because of this that the troubles come. Poor fellow, Khadilkar—I do not want to mention—but it has been my experience. They are turning a deaf ear to the explosive situation that is building up on this issue. They do not care to realise it. I have visited the Andamans personally as a member of

the committee. There is scope for rehabilitation, but, as a matter of policy they are shutting them out. And what is the dole that you are giving to these refugees per head? You should give the figures. What is the dole and by how much have you increased it? Three thousand families you have disposed of. Where? I know. To Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and other places. Wherever you send them, the land there cannot be tilled. It is barren land or land full of gravel and stones. They are agriculturists and they settle down wherever there is land. There is enough land in the Andamans but you have deliberately done that. It is all in the Master Plan of the Siddhartha Shankar Ray Government. I have given a note on that, saying that even if that is accepted in full and translated into action—they have not done so—it touches only the fringe of the problem. I have submitted a note on that as a member of the Committee. This Minister has not cared even to give me a reply to that note of mine. And these policy-makers are using two groups. Even if I take it for granted that there are two groups, they may fight with each other but how can a leader be arrested and why should the police take part in that? At the behest of the Commandant who is trafficking in immorality using refugee women as prostitutes? It is done under the benign eyes of the Government of India. I have seen in my State itself to what low depths you can sink over this issue.

Is India one? Do you treat the people of India as one? Or, do you think there are two peoples, two races that one is treated as alien and so you are behaving in this fashion? These people are not settled even after 25 years. The entire problem has become an explosive situation and it must burst into flames some day.

We are trying to prevent it, but human misery somehow or other finds an outlet. I accuse the Government of differential treatment. I accuse the Government of doing nothing in regard to their settlement. They have disbursed doles, turned them into beggars and prostitutes and most of them have died on the platform itself. That is what you have done. There should be a limit to it. He talks of the Planning Commission. I have talked to Mr. D. P. Dhar, but nothing has been done. He cannot do anything. You are making all sorts of misleading statements on the floor of the House.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Let me make one or two announcements. I have just got a message to say that out of the injured one is dead. So, in all four deaths have taken place...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Including a woman.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: That we shall see later on. So far as the other charges are concerned, I must say, whatever be the weakness of the former Commandant, so far as this camp is concerned, we have changed the Chief Commandant and appointed Brigadier Das, since February this year. He must remember that. He was a member of our Reviewing Committee and he knows the problem from the Bengal angle very well. Unfortunately, if what he has stated would have been correct, his party, which is trying naturally to trade on the refugee problem saying that it is not settled, would have got more support. He did not get that support...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: What did you say? Repeat it again.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: I shall give some information. There are 20 State administered camps in various States and one Centrally administered camp at Mana. Besides, there is the Tawa work-site camp, which comes under the administrative control of the Chief Commandant, Mana. There are also work camps in rehabilitation sites in Dandakaranya known as Karmishibirs. The total number of families living in these camps is 26,311 comprising 1,12,099 persons...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Twenty thousand families have not been settled.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Of these, about 4,550 families, comprising about 15,800 persons, are of P.L.—permanent liability—category. They cannot support themselves. These facts I am giving to counteract what he stated. We have solved a big problem. Only a small thing remains...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: No.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: We are sorry for it and we are going to do it. So far as the future is concerned, our Planning Minister and the Chief Minister, West Bengal

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have arrived at a settlement. *(Interruption)* Our plans for settlement must be dovetailed.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: It has been done behind the back of our committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you upset?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: It must be dovetailed into the State scheme of development, to which he has agreed. If he wants help for that and whatever they have settled, it is for the Planning Commission to make advances. As I said earlier, we are not responsible if nothing has been done. It is for him to go to the Chief Minister and find out . . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: You are the Minister of Rehabilitation.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: He asked what do we pay them?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Wonderful.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: About doles in work camps per family, one member gets now Rs. 40; two members get Rs. 60; three members get Rs. 80. A family with four members gets Rs. 97.50. A family with five members gets Rs. 115 and a family with six members gets Rs. 132.50. A family with seven members gets Rs. 150. This is as a result of the increase in doles by Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 agreed to lately. So this must be kept in mind. Over and above all this do you get anywhere in this country wheat at fifty paise a kilo? We are giving it daily. It is uniform for all, elders and youngsters.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I respectfully submit . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken much more time.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I confess I have taken some time; I do not deny. He mentioned about Members of Parliament of that area. Are the Government prepared to accept whatever they say in the meeting? I throw round the challenge. You call all the Members from the Congress and other parties from West Bengal and Assam and let them say. Are you prepared to accept all that they say?

SRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): If Mr. Niren Ghosh's allegation regarding the Brigadier who has been transferred is even 10 per cent. true, then I think it is a heinous crime which has been committed by the Commandant. The hon'ble Minister said that he had transferred him—may be he has been transferred to Simla which should be considered as a promotion rather than any action against him. May I ask the hon'ble Minister whether he has received any kind of complaint from the refugees regarding the Brigadier Commandant of the Camp indulging in immoral trafficking in refugee women? If that be so . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You are deliberately misleading. When has this Government not promoted corrupt and bad officials? Let him clarify.

SRI LOKANATH MISRA: I would like to know that categorically. Sir, this report is the product of the Committee which was set up of the Government of India. On page 4 it says:—

"It is true that the State Government could not spend all the amount sanctioned by the Government of India under the so-called residuary schemes. But there were many cogent reasons for this failure, the blame for which must be shared by the Central Government along with the State Government. The greatest difficulty the State Government experienced in implementing the residuary schemes was created by the Government of India when it insisted that the State Government must share one-third of the losses to be incurred on account of non-recovery of rehabilitation loans. This in fact brought the rehabilitation work virtually to a stand-still till the State Government agreed to share the losses."

If this was the report of the high-powered Committee which was set up by the Government of India itself, what action did the Government of India take in response to such a note by the high-powered committee? That is another question.

Sir, the hon'ble Minister gave some figures. The figures, I am told, may be essentially true but the picture given by him was probably in a somewhat diluted form because he gave the families of 5, 6 and 7. May I know whether it is not a

fact that a young child below three years is given 50 paise per day which comes to Rs. 15 a month, a boy between 3-8 is given Re 1 per day which comes to Rs. 30 a month and a boy above 8 or a male or female member, whatever it is, is given Rs. 1.50 per day? How does the hon'ble Minister expect, when prices have risen almost 200 per cent. during the last three or four years, these people to carry on with a dole consisting of eight annas to Rs. 1.50 per day?

Then, finally, does the hon'ble Minister think that giving them doles and repeating it day after day and month after month would keep their morale high. If they are kept on doles for an indefinite period, naturally, in any camp there would be indignation, resistance and frustration.

May I know what attempt has been made by the hon. Minister to rehabilitate them near the camp by way of providing some kind of industry there? No agricultural land could be made available to such a colossal number of people who have been uprooted. Could not some kind of an attempt be made in order to absorb all the refugees who have been settled in camps, by way of setting up an industry, whether small-scale or large-scale, so that all these people could be absorbed locally? Then there would not have been any kind of disturbance, there would not have been any kind of frustration because they would have had work near at hand and the entire area would have developed into a nice colony instead of remaining a poverty-stricken, dependent camp all through. May I know if all the money that has been spent up to now in these camps would not have been enough to set up an industry, whether small-scale or large-scale? And even if it is late now, would he think of setting up an industry near about the camps everywhere so that the refugee problem would be solved once and for all even though they would continue staying at the same place, though not in the camps but on their well-deserved pay from the industries?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Sir, all his suggestions are already at work. If he sees the annual reports of the Rehabilitation Corporation near Calcutta where we have invested a lot of money with a view to finding employment for these people, he will see how much money has been sunk

by the Government in this. But apart from this, for his information I may mention that in every camp, according to the population, there are primary schools and in Mana Camp Higher Secondary Schools and facilities for trade training and other training. So it is already there. The second thing is about the Commandant. What my hon. friend mentioned is not true. It is a charge levelled by the Opposition which has not been proved. But I do admit that in a population of this nature which has been uprooted, there might be a few cases where they might have fallen from virtue. But there are not many cases to shout about.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: On a point of order, Sir. It is, in fact, very undignified for the Minister in charge of Rehabilitation to say that there may be one or two cases, but it is not a case for shouting. Even if there is one case which has been brought about by the conduct of Brig. Das or the Commandant of the Camp, he should be taken to task. You cannot excuse even if there is one case where a woman was made to lose her virtue.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Sir, the Minister's explanation is not convincing. Even if there is one case, it should be properly enquired into. The Minister should not try to whitewash by saying that statistically the proportion is small.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: There is no desire to whitewash this thing. As I said earlier. . .

SHRI RABI RAY (Osissa): Have you made personal enquiries?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Let me complete my reply. Number one, the hon. Member made a charge and asked whether the Commandant has been promoted and sent to Simla. This is totally false. He was changed because we found him unsuitable. To manage a lakh of people at the camp and look after them is not an easy job, you must remember. From my own experience of Bengal refugees—98 lakhs for ten months—I can say that there may be a few cases, but I have not come across a single case of this nature. Therefore, as I said earlier, so far as this fall of virtue is concerned, there might be a stray incident. To accuse an officer is very easy, but to find a good and virtuous and

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efficient officer is very difficult. But it is not the Government's intention to promote a man who has fallen from virtue. Let him point out any instance. I will say it has not been done. So far as training and education is concerned, I entirely agree with him that they must be trained. We have made arrangements. They must be settled according to their trade. We have made arrangements. But there must also be some aptitude for this purpose. And as I mentioned, if you read the report of two years back you will find, we are making losses every year. From this it is very clear, whatever we have spent, is lost. There is nothing. So far as Bengal refugees are concerned, he mentioned to me, I must say we are doing everything possible. It is for the State Government to take greater interest, to find out the solution.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The State Government stated in the report that because there is a stipulation that one-third of the losses must be borne by the State Government, it has not been possible for the State Government to invest money; and therefore, many of your schemes have not come into action. That is what I mentioned to you. Sir, this is a major policy matter. The Minister should say something on it. I brought this to his notice, through the Chair, that because there is a stipulation that one-third of the losses must be borne by the State Government, the State Governments have not been able to utilise the money because they cannot bear that.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: He does not know the latest position. I have already said that most of the loans have been wiped off by the recent order, and titles in land are being given. Now the position is different.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: On a point of information, one Mr. Bhushan Pal's salary has been seized on account of loans.

SHRI SUHRID MULLICK CHAUDHURY (West Bengal): Regarding the step-motherly attitude of the Government, it has been disclosed by various Members of the House and I do not want to repeat all that. I only say that police firing on destitutes and unarmed people is an act of cowardice. Similarly it may be recalled that a few months back some of the refugees who came from Bihar to represent their

grievances before the Minister were given a cold shoulder and forcibly sent back. The Government should be ashamed of this attitude of its towards refugees. In this particular case a magisterial inquiry is not sufficient. It is suggested that a high-level inquiry at least at the level of a High Court Judge should be ordered immediately and the report should be placed before the House as soon as possible.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: As I said earlier, so far as the inquiry part is concerned, it is the Madhya Pradesh Government which is looking into this question. And they have ordered a magisterial inquiry. I will pass on all the suggestions to them. If they accept them, well and good.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: You tell us whether you recommend or not. You tell us whether the Central Government being in charge of rehabilitation recommends the suggestion to the Madhya Pradesh Government or not.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: I will say that these are the opinions expressed in the House.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Refugees are your charge.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: As I said in my statement, so far as refugees are concerned, they are our charge. I entirely admit it. But as regards law and order problem is concerned, firing was done under a magisterial order. Therefore, so far as this is concerned, I will pass on the suggestion to the Government of Madhya Pradesh. For his information I may mention that the Commandants, as soon as their term is over or otherwise if there is a complaint, they are removed.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: On a point of order Sir, two points have been made out by the Members: one is firing and the other is maladministration in camps. My point is that camp administration lies with the Government of India. So he may recommend the suggestions of the Members to the State Government. But what about maladministration? What has he to say about that? That is his job. That is not the affair of the State Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order. Next, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram.

SHRI JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM (Nominated): Sir, I am dealing with more or less a basic principle during the few words that I will utter. I personally hate to use the word 'refugees' for all the displaced persons who have come from Pakistan. By using the word 'refugees', we are lowering their real status. They were all Indian citizens. They were citizens of undivided India. Leaders decided for the sake of independence of a certain part of undivided India to accept partition. Those who were displaced by partition from time to time up till now are all persons of Indian origin and they were all citizens of undivided India. They are the victims of independence. Independence which has enriched the rest of India, independence which has led to the development of the rest of India, independence which has given us this Parliament and given us status and privileges, due, and may I say some undue, to the Members of Parliament and which has created Ministers in charge of the country, was achieved on the shoulders of the sufferings of these people. I would request the Minister of Rehabilitation to take a correct view of the situation and realise that they were our fellow citizens and many of them were freedom fighters and many of them had been to prison for the sake of independence of the rest of India. Our whole attitude ought to change. We ought to give some priority to the rehabilitation of these people. There are large areas being irrigated in the country in the rest of India, undivided India. I would give priority for the rehabilitation of the agriculturists in all these newly irrigated areas in different parts of the country. If I were incharge I would give priority—as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel has done—in the employment of these old fellow Indian citizens on the basis of whose sufferings we have become independent and we have got this Parliament and we got power. All these basic principles ought to guide the Ministry of Rehabilitation, if it has to do its duty. I would also make a request to the Minister of Rehabilitation. If he has to really do his duty to his own conscience, he should tour, tour and tour all the time available to him when the Parliament is not sitting. Whether the administration is in the hands of the States or not, it is the duty of the Centre whose decisions has created this situation under which this has become the duty of the State Governments. Personal touring will give him a realistic view of the problems

and that will create an atmosphere and psychology among the refugees themselves which will help the administration of the problems with which you are faced. It is this basic principle that I venture to place before you. This would also include people who have come from Sind in West Pakistan. But I am not going into the details of that problem. You have to adopt a correct attitude because these are our old fellow Indian citizens, fellow freedom fighters. They are now in difficulties and they have been in difficulties for many, many years.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Before I reply to the points raised by the veteran Member of this House, I would like to say about one point regarding the concern expressed about the nature of enquiry. That point has been made and we will pursue it. So far as the administration is concerned, if a positive suggestion is made, it can be looked into because we have lot of experienced people in this very Department. They have experience over so many years. If feasible suggestions are made, certainly we shall undertake to examine them.

So far as the honourable Member, the veteran Member, is concerned, he means himself. But I do not call him a refugee. He is a very good Indian and he is a freedom fighter. So, I would reply to two points of his, only. I do recognise that we should not call them refugees. I am using this term because it is a common term and I will call them only as Indians or migrants or whatever you like and if you can suggest any other term, personally I am prepared to adopt it.

Now, there is another thing: When I look at any refugee, I look at him only with the greatest compassion and human feelings because he is equally our citizen, whether he comes from Bengal or Punjab or Sind. He himself knows how Mahatma has treated the Sindhis. So, in a situation like this, I entirely agree with him that we should look at them with the greatest sympathy, not pity, but sympathy and understanding and also with an awareness of their psychology, because they have been ousted.

So far as giving priorities is concerned, the Government has always kept in view this thing. Otherwise, why has the Government incurred this much of expenditure? It is

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because of the fact that the Government has considered it its duty and we have discharged this as far as possible within our means. So, I would assure him that we do not look at them from any other angle.

[Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

**REFERENCE TO CIRCULATION OF
THE REPORT OF THE PAY COM-
MITTEE FOR THE PARLIAMENT SEC-
RETARIATES TO THE MEMBERS.**

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN (Kerala): Sir, on a point of order. Before we go on to the next item on the agenda, I would like to make a submission . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, please. You cannot raise anything now.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Sir, some time back, we discussed a Private Member's Resolution on the pay scales and allowances and the service conditions of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat staff. I understand that the Pay Committee has gone into this matter and a Report has been submitted. I would, therefore, request the Government, through you, Sir, to allow this matter to be discussed . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kurian, you cannot raise this now. It is absolutely out of order.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: At least the Report can be circulated to the Members so that we will know what it is and we will have an opportunity to discuss it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This cannot be allowed.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I agree with you that this cannot be raised now. And I also do not want to force it on you. But I would say that at least the Report can be circulated to us.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. We go on to the next item.

THE INTEREST TAX BILL, 1974

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R.
GANESH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to impose a special tax on interest in certain cases, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this Bill seeks to levy a special tax on the total amount of interest received by the State Bank, the nationalised banks and by the other scheduled banks on loans and advances made by them in India. The proposed levy is a part of the various anti-inflationary measures taken by the Government in recent months. The banks would be expected to reimburse themselves to the extent necessary by making appropriate adjustments in the interest rates charged from borrowers. It is expected to result in an increase of about one per cent in the cost of borrowings from the scheduled banks. It is estimated that the proposed measure will yield about Rs. 60 crores in a full year and Rs. 25 crores during the current financial year. The proposed tax will thus have both a monetary and fiscal impact inasmuch as it will serve the purpose of raising the cost of borrowed funds and of supplementing Government revenues.

The proposed tax, to be known as "interest-tax", will be levied at the rate of 7 per cent on the amount of the chargeable interest. For the purpose of the levy, interest will include commitment charges on the unutilised portion of any credit sanctioned for being availed of in India, as also discounts on promissory notes or bills of exchange drawn or made in India. Discounts on treasury bills will, however, be outside the scope of the levy. Interest on Government securities and on debentures or other securities issued by local authorities, companies or statutory corporations has also been exempted from the proposed levy. Interest received on loans and advances made by a scheduled bank to other scheduled banks will not be chargeable to tax. This exemption is being allowed because such loans and advances represent temporary accommodation granted by one bank to another and interest received by the borrowing bank from its constituents will, in any event, be chargeable to tax in its own hands.