

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : So far as the number of workers is concerned, I do not think I have got the exact figures. But we are doing it in a phased manner in relation to different areas, like Mahamaya mines which is producing 400,000 tonnes of iron ore. There total departmentalisation is going to take place. Regarding other mines, we are encouraging formation of labour cooperatives and all of them will be accommodated through the labour cooperatives. The question of taking any workers through employment exchange, I do not think, arises in these circumstances.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : There are serious allegations from the trade unions and recognised trade unions that in the name of labour cooperatives, old contractors are trying to come back and they will be completely under the domination of the contractors. Would you please investigate into the matter and tell us by which month and date this departmentalisation will be completed in these mines ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : So far as the question of working of the cooperatives is concerned, there is always the possibility of misuse and we are doing our best to prevent that. I can assure the hon. Members that this is in the mind of the management and we would like to see that this whole idea of cooperatives is not misused. So far as the question of giving an assurance regarding the exact dates is concerned, I am not in a position to give any date nor would I like to give an assurance. But I can tell you that the resolution passed by the Board of Hindustan Steel which met in early February has put certain specific time limits within which we have to complete it. We are trying to do it as early as possible.

REFUGEES FROM BANGLA DESH

- *95. **SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :**
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :
SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR :
SHRI PREM MANOHAR :
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA †
SHRI S. G. SARDESAI :
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :
SHRI M. K. MOHTA :
DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MA-
THUR :

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

- SHRI K. C. PANDA :**
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHER-
JEE :
SHRI D. THENGARI :
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :
SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :
SHRI RAM SAHAI :
SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA :
SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA :
DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN :
SHRI J. S. TILAK :
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH
IOHRA :
SHRI J. P. YADAV :
SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARA-
YANA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Bangla Desh refugees who have already returned to Bangla Desh ;
- (b) the number of such refugees who are still in India, state-wise ;
- (c) the steps taken by Government for sending these refugees back to their home-land ;
- (d) the total expenditure incurred so far on them, and the expenditure likely to be incurred for the refugees who are still in India ;
- (e) the amount of foreign aid for refugees received so far from abroad, country-wise ; and
- (f) the amount realised by additional taxation and duties for refugee relief ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha, indicating the position as on the 12th March, '72 [See Appendix LXXIX, Annexure No. 13].

(c) Repatriation of camp refugees was organised by the Government of India with effect from the 1st January, 1972. All means of transport including trucks, special trains and ships were utilised for carrying the refugees into Bangla Desh. As regards refugees staying outside the camps, most of them have gone back and the remaining are also expected to return to their homes in Bangla Desh on their own very soon.

(d) The expenditure incurred upto the end of February, 1972, is estimated at about Rs. 275 crores. The further expenditure likely to be incurred in connection with the Bangla Desh

refugees is about Rs. 51 crores bringing the total to about Rs. 326 crores.

(e) The total amount of foreign aid received so far is about Rs. 127 crores including Rs. 37 crores in cash. A statement showing the aid received from foreign Governments/Voluntary Organisations in cash (country-wise) as on 6th March 1972, is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix LXXIX Annexure No. 14] Country-wise information regarding the aid received in kind is not available.

(f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, may I know whether out of the money which was collected whatever remains has been made over to the Government of Bangla Desh for helping the rehabilitation there and, if so, what is the amount that has been made over to the Bangla Desh Government? During the last year, through Supplementary Demands, funds were raised for meeting the expenses on account of the refugees. I should like to know how much of the total funds that were raised by way of taxation had actually been spent and what remains unspent and how that money is to be utilised for the rehabilitation of the people on the other side of the border. I should also like to know, since the refugees have gone back and part of the expenditure has been covered by the foreign assistance, why the Ministry is not recommending through the Ministry of Finance that the additional taxes that were put on account of Bangla Desh refugees to meet their cost should be cancelled. We do not need this money any more for rehabilitating the refugees. Therefore, certain taxes which were specifically put for meeting the relief expenditure in this country should be withdrawn.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : Touching the last question raised by the Member first, the Member should address that question of why the additional taxation by the Government should not be given up, to the Ministry of Finance. That is not the concern of this Ministry. So far as the other part is concerned, whatever we have received, namely, vehicles, medicines, clothing, utensils, jeeps, trucks, etc.—we have a long list—have been handed over. So far as the money part is concerned, the Member should remember that whatever we have received from foreign agencies, it was received because the world recognised partially at least that it was their

responsibility and being neighbours, of course we had undertaken to discharge it. So the question of handing over all the collections to the Bangla Desh Government does not arise but after the return of the refugees we have made arrangements that everyone will get Rs. 30 till they are settled there and a child will get Rs. 15. That disbursement is made by the Bangla Desh Government. So far we have advanced Rs. 12 crores . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I understand this money was received from various foreign agencies to meet the requirements of the refugees here or meeting the expenses on account of the relief and succour of the refugees. In a way morally we were the trustees of the funds that came to us for helping all those who had come from the other side. Now that they have gone to the other side of the border, would it not be advisable for the Government to treat this money as having been held in their hands on account of those refugees who are still to be rehabilitated on the other side? Is the Minister aware that the Government of Bangla Desh is facing great difficulty in this matter of rehabilitating those who have gone back? In view of this, without taking a technical view of it—I know the Government of India is helping it generally and I am not quarrelling about that—would it not be advisable to hand over whatever is available to the Government of Bangla Desh so that they can use it for the rehabilitation of those people, which is our intention also?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I may tell the Member that whatever we have not received and which is in the pipeline has been diverted—things in kind. So far as money collection is concerned, we have certain responsibilities here. I am afraid he is contradicting himself. In one breath he says why we are taxing and the tax should be withdrawn. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The Minister's sense of logic I do not understand.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may not understand but let him proceed.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : He may not follow what I say but let him have some patience. We have to spend about Rs. 326 crores. Out of that Rs. 275 crores we have already spent. This is a responsibility which we have to shoulder on behalf of the international community. So the question of

transferring the remaining funds does not arise but whatever responsibility we have taken on our shoulders to see that at the initial stages help is given to those refugees who have gone back to their homeland, to fulfil that, we are paying allowances to them. And towards that we are paying Rs. 18.58 crores. We are going to help them in the process to the last and no question of diversion of fund arises at all.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA Sir, on a point of protection. One question he has not answered at all. This one is all right, perhaps he has not understood the question. I asked whether his Ministry has recommended to the Ministry of Finance about such levies as were specifically for raising money for instance additional charge on postage. That he has not answered.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR The Finance Minister is in overall charge, he has taken note of it. He must have read his speech and he must have seen what he has said about this. So the question of recommendation does not arise.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY Sir may I say

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA • When the refugees are not here now, why should you have them? Sir, if you write a letter to your beloved son you will have to pay five paise extra, why should you pay that?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY Mr Bhupesh Gupta seems to have put a wrong question and he has also replied in a wrong manner. His reply has created an impression that we have got surplus funds out of what we got from abroad. He has created the impression that we are holding back those funds and we are not diverting them to Bangla Desh. But we do not have funds at all. In fact we are spending more than we have received.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA Mr Gurupadaswamy is very clever. He gets up and says that I put a wrong question and he answered in a wrong manner. And he himself puts up a third view which is entirely wrong. All that I say is, the money received from foreign sources which is in your hands, you are holding in a fiduciary capacity.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH May I know whether the Government is thinking of

withdrawing the additional levies which were imposed for meeting the additional expenditure for Bangla Desh refugees as most of the refugees have gone back and only a very small number is here?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR How much the additional levies have yielded I do not know. At this juncture, I cannot make any statement regarding this. As I said earlier, this question should be addressed to the Finance Minister.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA May I ask the hon. Minister if the Government has any information as to how many of the refugees who have gone back to Bangla Desh have been properly resettled and their agricultural land and other properties have been restored to them?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR We get information—it is an independent country—through our liaison officer connected with the Rehabilitation Department on the other side and so far as our information goes every effort is being made by the Bangla Desh Government to see they are resettled and their properties as well as their houses are restored.

DR BHAI MAHAVIR May I know if the Government considers it necessary to keep on the burden of the imposts which were levied because of the refugees having come to India even in the next financial year in spite of the fact that the bulk of the refugees have returned to their homeland and secondly has the Government any information about the progress of rehabilitation and restoration of the properties and other things to the refugees of all communities who have gone back to Bangla Desh.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR First point I have already replied. As far as the second question is concerned we have information to the effect that attempts are being made to resettle them. Let us remember that it is not only the returning refugees many in Bangla Desh itself were rendered homeless. So, the total refugee resettlement problem is so stupendous. It is not only 10 millions, it is about 30 millions in all, and our information is that Bangla Desh Government is sparing no effort to see that they are settled properly and their properties restored. It is a question of finding the records, and other difficulties are there.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : My point was, because those people had been evicted from there, their properties had been allotted by the occupation army to the other people who were collaborating with them. Now, are we satisfied about the progress of restoration of those properties to their original owners ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : As I said earlier, it is not a question of my subjective satisfaction. I am judging it objectively and, as I said, their effort are to restore those properties to them.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : Is the Government aware of the fact that the refugees who were settled in Dandakaranya prior to 1970 have started vacating the settlement and are returning to Bangla Desh ? If so, what steps is the Government taking to send them back to their homeland and to resettle other people in Dandakaranya in their place ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : Some families have left the Dandakaranya area on their own without our knowledge because of their eagerness to return to their homeland. I know it. We have never encouraged it. How they managed to leave, we do not know. They must have left surreptitiously. This is a fact but, as things stand, we are just now concerned with the refugees who crossed over after 25th of March 1971. So far as the earlier refugees or migrants are concerned, this matter will be taken up at the appropriate time keeping in mind that all of them are very eager to return because Bangla Desh has since been liberated.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : The hon. Minister just now assured the House that the Government of India would take up the matter of the refugees who came to India even before the 25th of March, 1971. I would like to know what is the total number of refugees who came over from the erstwhile East Bengal or East Pakistan before this present crisis started and when does the Government propose to take this matter up with the Government of Bangla Desh.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : So far as the figure is concerned, I want notice because I cannot offhand give the correct figures of those who came to India before the 25th of March, 1971. It will be about 11 lakhs but I am unable to give the exact figure.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं मन्त्री जी से यह जान सकूंगा कि स्टेटमेंट के देखने से ऐसा मालूम

होता है कि संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका ने इस सम्बन्ध में 8 करोड़ की मदद की और यू० के० ने 17 करोड़ से ज्यादा की मदद की है। अमरीका की इस मदद में उदासीनता का क्या कारण है, उसने इतनी कम मदद क्यों की, क्या इस तथ्य पर प्रकाश डाल सकेंगे ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : These figures relate to cash contribution only. It is not for us to judge ; you can judge for yourself how the U. K. has responded and how the U. S. A. has responded—it is for them—in such a cause as a humanitarian cause.

श्री राम सहाय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट को इस बारे में ज्यादा जानकारी होगी जिसकी वजह से उसने इतनी कम मदद दी।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister cannot give the reasons.

SHRI J. S. TILAK : Government has given a Statement showing the aid received. Do these figures cover the aid received from OXFAM, CARE and other institutions ? Now the Government has given the number of refugees who have returned to Bangla Desh. Do these cover refugees prior to 25th March, 1971 ? May I know whether it is a fact that the Bangla Desh Government is ready to take back the refugees who left their homeland between 1947 and 1971 ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : The aid figures cover all the international agencies who have given aid to the Government of India. Everything is covered. So far as the other question is concerned, the question of the return of the pre-25th March refugees, if at all, will be taken up at an appropriate time. At the present juncture there is no question of sending them back.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Niren Ghosh, last question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : What was the estimate submitted by the Government of India to the United Nations as regards the expenditure that was to be incurred by the Government of India ? May I know whether so much expenditure has been incurred by the Government of India ? If a far less amount has been spent, what is the reason for that ? Secondly, what is the amount collected by the Government of India through the new imposts in this

country and why should they not discontinue the imposts? Also, I would like to say, as he himself has said, there are 30 million homeless in Bangla Desh. If the international community has committed some aid, whatever it is, and if it is in the pipeline, why should not those funds go to them since in a country of 7½ crores, three crores have been rendered homeless? What was the amount spent per refugee by the Government of India at the point of sending them back? Was it a paltry sum? They could not fend for themselves even for a month. Why was this treatment meted out?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR Whatever be the estimates submitted from time to time to international organisations for aid, they were based on the influx of refugees. It went up from time to time. So, it is very difficult to give an exact figure at a particular point of time, but I would like to tell the hon. Member that whatever be our estimates, the aid, as I have said in the statement fell short of the actual expenditure that we incurred and we are going to incur. That is very clear. So far as the other part is concerned, viz., what the new levies have brought in, how much the Government has collected, whether it is more or less, when the levy should be lifted, it is for the Finance Minister to decide. The other part of the question also is a repetition. As I said earlier, so far as international aid for refugee relief in India is concerned, to the extent they had accepted, they have not discharged their obligations fully and whatever they have given to us we have spent towards their shelter, clothing, food, transport and others things. Whatever we had in our possession, including medicines, trucks, ambulances and all sorts of things, have been handed over to the Bangla Desh Government. What is now in the pipeline as aid has been diverted to Bangla Desh and I presume that the same international community will come forward to help in the refugee settlement in Bangla Desh. So, the question of diversion of funds does not arise.

सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों के निवासियों को क्षतिपूर्ति

*96. श्री लाल आडवाणी :†
श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर :
श्री दत्तोपन्त ठेगड़ी :

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :
श्री ना० कृ० शेजवलकर :
श्री प्रेम मनोहर :
डा० भाई महावीर :
श्री मानसिंह वर्मा :

क्या श्रम और पुनर्वासि मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों के जिन निवासियों का हाल के भारत-पाक युद्ध में जान-माल का नुकसान हुआ, क्या उन्हें क्षतिपूर्ति देने की कोई योजना लागू की गई है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इस प्रकार से मिलने वाली क्षतिपूर्ति क्या सभी राज्यों में समान है ?

‡[COMPENSATION TO RESIDENTS OF THE BORDER AREAS

*96 SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD
MAIHUR :
SHRI D. THENGARI :
SHRI J. P. YADAV :
SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR :
SHRI PREM MANOHAR :
DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :
SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been introduced to give compensation to those residents of the border areas who suffered loss of life and property during the recent Indo-Pak war ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and whether the criterion for granting compensation is uniform in all the States ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BAL GOVIND VERMA) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha]

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lal K. Advani.

‡[] English translation.