

[Shri K. C. Pant,]

follow. But Shri Sri Rama Reddy pointed out some defects in the scheme of things...

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: That is the state of affair.

SHRI K. C. PANT: It is the way of looking at the facts.

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA: It has great potential for irrigation facilities. That way it is there. But I said it is very necessary that clearance should be given for the Cauvery scheme. In that we are backward.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Your picture of the State which has been doing its maximum has been spoilt somewhat by the comparison with Tamil Nadu brought in by Shri Reddy. He said that Tamil Nadu has done three times as well. So far as the projects are concerned, I am not aware of the project he has referred to. If he lets me know about the project, I shall see what can be done about it at our end. In any case, in the public sector the Central Government has put up many projects in the State and rightly so, if I may say so. On that count there is, I hope, no heart burning or ill feeling at all in the minds of Mysore M.Ps.

So far as Shri Schamnad is concerned, I have to thank him for the best compliments we have received today from him. He said that Congress (R) is indifferent to power and that when it had a chance...

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD
It is indifferent to democracy also

SHRI K. C. PANT: ... to form a government, it chose not to form such a government. This happens to be also a matter of fact. If you just think back on the Party positions immediately after the resignation of Shri Virendra Patil, the Party positions were such that if the Congress

(R) wanted to form a government, it could have done so. And then my hon. friend may not have come up with the charge that we have engineered defections. A complete answer to both the defection argument and the other arguments that have been raised earlier about political nature has been given by my hon. friend and so I am grateful to him. I did not myself want to bring in these considerations, but since he has done it on my behalf, I am grateful to him.

Then, about the assistance being given or that is distributed, you please write to me and I will look into it.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
Sir, I wish to say that it is the same philosophy in the Punjab also.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

THE GOLD (CONTROL) AMENDMENT BILL, 1971

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith the Gold (Control) Amendment Bill, 1971, as passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th June, 1971."

Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table.

SHRI OM MEHTA: Sir, there are a large number of speakers on the Bangla D sh issue and the Prime Minister may also be intervening at 5-00 P.M. today. So we can adjourn.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. The House stands adjourned till 2.00P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-one minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at two of the Clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON THE SITUATION ARISING OUT OF THE INFLUX OF MILLIONS OF REFUGEES FROM BANGLA DESH INTO INDIA

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I raise the discussion on the situation arising out of the influx of millions of refugees from Bangla Desh into India.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the subject on which the discussion is taking place is a familiar one. If I remember correctly, almost in each session of Parliament there is a discussion in some form or other about the refugee influx. And this refugee influx is from East Bengal to West Bengal and certain other border States.

Sir, the refugee influx, if I remember correctly, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, in regard to Indian politics started as early as in 1946 when after the riot of Noakhali and Tippera a large number of Hindu migrants came to West Bengal, and since then the flow of refugees is continuing, although the tempo has subsided from time to time.

According to the Government of India, there are certain classifications

of these refugees: new migrants and old migrants. Those refugees who are coming after the developments in Bangla Desh on the 25th March have not yet been classified by the Government of India. It has been stated that 50,000 to 60,000 people are pouring into West Bengal and up to this date, as has been reported by the Secretary, Rehabilitation Ministry, nearly 5.5 million refugees have entered into different parts of the country. In West Bengal alone, 43,90,101 refugees entered until 12th June, 1971 in Assam, 1.8 lakh, in Meghalaya 2.53 lakh and in Tripura 7.30 lakh million. Mr Deputy Chairman, I do not know what the Government of India is contemplating about this large influx of refugees who are coming daily, what steps the Government of India will take for their rehabilitation, what measures the Government of India are going to adopt for these people who are coming in alarming proportions.

If we go through the Budget allocation of the Government of India, we find that Rs. 60 crores have been allocated for the relief work of the refugees coming from Bangla Desh, and our Finance Minister has expressed his desire, his wish, that all these refugees, that all these migrants, may be returning back to their homes and hearths after a political settlement in Bangla Desh. I would have been happy if the desire, if the wish of the hon. Finance Minister would have come to a reality. But, Sir, this will, this desire, this hope expressed now by the hon. Finance Minister in his speech reminds me of the same will, the same desire, the same hope, expressed by the then political leaders of our country in the early days of 'partition', Mr. Deputy Chairman, when the refugees were coming immediately after partition. When a large number of people were coming immediately after partition, then Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. P. C. Ghosh, he was advised by the Central Government to arrange only relief measures and not to take other measures for rehabilitating the refugees. It was said that these people would go back if things settled down