

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF RAJYA SABHA

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have to inform Members that Shri K. K. Shah, a Member representing the State of Maharashtra and who was the Leader of the House, resigned this seat in the Rajya Sabha with effect from the 22nd May, 1971.

The House stands adjourned till 2.30 P.M.

The House adjourned for Lunch at fortytwo minutes past one of the Clock.

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

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS), 1971-72.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/ THIRU MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) of (he estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the year 1971-72 in respect of Railways.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

GRAVE SITUATION ARISING OUT OF HEAVY INFLUX OF REFUGEES FROM BANGLA DESH TO INDIA—*contd.*

SHRI DEV DATT PURI : Sir, I was somewhat distressed to hear the reply of the Minister. What we are witnessing is a dark and sinister plan of destroying the elected majority of Bangla Desh by extermination and by physically driving them out, and an attempt is made to change the pattern of the population of the country permanently as has been done in Israel by driving out the Arab majority. Will the Government treat it as a problem of a longer term than what the statement of the Minister seems to imply? He is quite optimistic that everything will be well within six months, that all these people will be able to go back in safety. Even the statement issued by the Defence Minister only this morning creates a somewhat different impression. And I would urge upon the Government to be a little more realistic and less complacent, and to apply their collective thinking, not give out state-

ments which create entirely different impression, and prepare the country not for six months, but for a considerably longer period of sacrifices, financial, social and others. Will the Government appeal to the conscience of the civilised world all over to stop this massacre and appeal particularly to the Arab countries since they themselves have witnessed this phenomenon; although not at quite the same scale at which we are witnessing? Will the Government also appeal to the Afro-Asian nations, to the non-aligned nations, to the humanity at large, to stop this barbarism which is going on in Bangla Desh. And will the Government also take special note of the assistance that Pakistan is receiving in the perpetration of these heinous crime, from China, Iran and Turkey?

SHRI S. D. MISRA (Uttar Pradesh): Will the Government do anything more than merely appealing? Only an appeal has been made by this Government.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I fully share the revulsion expressed by the hon. Member at the oppression, terror and other methods practised by Pakistan's military junta in East Bengal. When we say six month's time, it is not a deadline; the expectation is not based on a certain sort of definite calculation, I would say, but judging from the present situation we expect that there will be a turn for the better within that period, and conditions might be created when the refugees in millions who have crossed over, just taking refuge here for the time being, would return to their homeland with a sense of safety and with expectation of peaceful life.

So far as the appeal to the international world is concerned, we have that made appeal and in response, the United Nations Secretary General, U Thant, had issued an appeal to the Powers to contribute very liberally. But it is not true to say that we are just taking relief measures and keeping quite. We also realise that this has created a problem for us in the sense— whatever it is on humanitarian grounds— that we have to share a very heavy burden, and the neighbouring State has driven out its citizens to our territory. Therefore, it assumes different complexions altogether. I may assure the House that Government is doing its best on the diplomatic front, alerting all the democratic, progressive nations to come to help of the victims of military terror in East Bengal.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Sir, I would like to say something when the bigge