

RAJYA SABHA

Friday the 1st March, 1968/the 11th
Phalgun, 1889

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

REFUGEE REHABILITATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

*351. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1308 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th December, 1967 and state:

(a) whether the Refugee Rehabilitation Review Committee appointed by the Government of India has since submitted any interim report; and

(b) if so, what are the broad features of its findings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The broad features of the report are:—

(1) The number of families covered by the report—

(i) At Asrafiabad ex-camp site	450
(ii) In Vagrants' Homes	689
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(2) Scales of rehabilitation assistance recommended.

(i) Homestead plots @ 3 to 5 cottahs per family in urban/semi urban areas and 6 to 10 cottahs in rural areas.

(ii) House building loan @ Rs. 2,000 in urban/semi urban areas and @ Rs. 1250 in rural areas.

(iii) Small Trade loan @ Rs. 1500 per family to those whose per capita
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income is less than the average national per capita income.

(iv) Agricultural loan @ Rs. 1150 per family.

(v) Development cost of homestead plots @ Rs. 700 per plot (The development cost has been recommended to be treated as grant).

(3) The total financial implication, would be about Rs. 47 lakhs.

(4) The ex-camp sites should be cleared all at a time and no family should be left behind at the sites.

(5) As regards new migrants, it has been recommended that so far as the squatters on ex-camp sites are concerned, no distinction be made between the old and the new migrants in the matter of giving rehabilitation assistance.

(6) Families of Permanent Liability category should be given an option either to be admitted into P.L. Homes or to be settled in rehabilitation sites. The families having male members of adolescent age group should, as far as possible, be given rehabilitation assistance.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, apart from castigating the Government of India and also the State Government in the matter of failure of the rehabilitation programme in West Bengal the Committee has appropriately highlighted two major issues, namely, the rehabilitation of the migrants who came over to India before April 1958, who had taken to these camps and who are still squatting on the sites of the different camps. Another point which the Committee has highlighted is the plight of the inhabitants or migrants in the vagrants' camps. They have suggested that the migrants in the ex-camp sites and in the vagrants' homes should be rehabilitated, as far as possible, on the ex-camp sites. What is the decision of the Government regarding this particularly and may I know whether they will be rehabilitated in the ex-camp sites?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Addressing Shri D. R. Chavan) You took five minutes.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: No. Sir, he has taken two minutes. This is a very important question.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The Review Committee, which had been appointed to study the problem in depth, has made certain recommendations. I have just now given the broad features of the recommendations in my main reply. Now, the report, which was submitted on the 28th December, 1967, is under examination of the Government and after this examination is over certain decisions may be taken by the Government.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: My second question is, the Committee also recommended that the rate of the house-building amount . . .

SHRI P. C. MITRA: The hon. Minister certainly knows it. You may put a question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: You are not the Chairman. He is sufficiently intelligent to advice me how to put a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you go ahead.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The Committee also recommended that the price of the land purchased should be increased in view of the fact that the price of the land, of late, has been increased and may I know whether the Government is also considering that proposal? Again, I want to bring it to the notice of the Government that by an earlier order certain categories of loans were written off, but certain other categories of loans, viz., contributory house-building loan, the professional loan and the higher business loan, have not been written off. May I know, whether the Government has under contemplation to write off the interest part of the loan or the capital part of the loan in a phased programme, particularly in deserving cases?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The first part of the question is concerning the recommendations. I have just now said, in my answer, what the broad features of the recommendations are. Now, those recom-

mendations are under examination. As regards the residuary problem, to which a reference has been made by the hon. Member, it was assessed sometime in 1960-61 in consultation with the representatives of the West Bengal Government and as a result it was agreed that for the liquidation of the problem a sum of Rs. 21.8 crores would be necessary. A part of the money is by way of loans and a part of the money is in grants. Most of the money under grant schemes has been given to the West Bengal Government for the sanctioned schemes. As regards the loan part of it, a part of it has been given and the balance is remaining. As the hon. Member is aware, in 1966 powers were delegated to the West Bengal Government to formulate their own schemes in consultation with their Finance Department and sanction them on the principles and within the ceilings for sanctioning proposals. As regards the loans, he has made a reference to the remission of the loans,—the contributory house-building loans and other things. I may mention that a decision was taken some time in 1964 and remission of the order of Rs. 38 crores has been given in respect of certain categories of loans.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Will the hon. Minister enlighten the House whether there is a scheme for allotting land near about Kalkaji to East Bengal refugees who are gainfully employed here and whether it is a fact that in allotting land no standard is, at all, being maintained? In respect of gainful employment the report is that even the private tutor of a Secretary has got 230 square yards of land. Will the hon. Minister assure this House that such discrimination will stop in the matter of allotment of land to East Bengal refugees in Delhi and that some reasonable standard of allotment will be immediately enforced, at least before the next lottery, which is scheduled to be held on the 9th of this month?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: As a matter of fact, the hon. Member is making a reference to the colony that is being developed for East Pakistan refugees near Kalkaji in

Delhi. It does not arise out of this question. The hon. Member is well aware of the fact that two Press notifications have been issued laying down the terms and conditions on which allotments to East Pakistan refugees in Kalkaji will be made.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: May I know, Sir, whether this Committee has made any recommendation in regard to the prevention of influx of further refugees into this country? I would also like to know on which and what part of the recommendations of this Committee has action been taken and implemented so far.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Just now I mentioned the broad features of the recommendations that have been made. As regards further influx, no recommendation has been made by this Committee. A copy of the Report has been placed in Parliament Library and I may request the hon. Member to look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SHRI M. PURKAYASTHA: We are not given a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can I do? Ten minutes are over.

SHRI M. PURKAYASTHA: Only those who are generally asking questions are given a chance. We are not given a chance. Those who frequently ask questions get a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Put a question.

SHRI M. PURKAYASTHA: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in August 1967 the then Minister of State of Rehabilitation of the Government of India, Shri L. N. Mishra, assured a deputation from Assam that the terms of reference of this Review Committee will be enlarged so as to entrust this Committee with the task of examining the residuary problem of rehabilitation in Assam?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: There was a meeting some time back between the Minister of State and representatives of the Assam Government concerning the demand that had been made for the appointment of a Review Committee to go into question of the residuary problem in Assam. I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by going into the residuary problem. As a matter of fact residuary problem does not exist there. Secondly, as regards the new migrants, the Assam Government has accepted the responsibility of settling about 12,000 families. Assurance has been given to the Chief Minister of Assam concerning the surplus families that are left over; we have accepted responsibility for rehabilitation of those families elsewhere.

IMPORT OF TRACTORS

*352. **SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH BRAR:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imported tractors are in great demand in the country specially in Punjab because of its agricultural status;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to import tractors from different sources to meet the requirements;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is dearth of tractor workshops in the country;

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this respect; and

(e) whether there are any restrictions on the movement of imported Russian tractors from one zone to another zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) There is a substantial demand for imported tractors in many States.