

Some members are still left in either country and steps are being taken, by mutual co-operation and agreement, to repatriate all these persons.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: May I know whether the Indian prisoners in Pakistan got the treatment as prescribed by the international code of conduct for prisoners of war as laid down by the Geneva Convention?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I would not have used the word 'unsatisfactory', as I have done in my reply, if these were in accordance with the Convention.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if any target date for the completion of repatriation of internees from both countries has been agreed upon?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: No target date has been agreed upon, but this is intended to be completed as soon as possible. For instance, by way of illustration, the total number of Indians reported to be interned in Pakistan is 3,887 and, as I have already indicated, out of them, 3,635 have so far been repatriated. So, the number of internees, that are left on either side, is small, as compared to the total number of internees in each country.

SHRI K. DAMODARAN: The hon. Minister has not replied to one part of the question, i.e., the total number of internees in Pakistan.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have given the reply already.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया :
क्या श्रीमान् यह बतलायेगे कि प्रोटेस्ट लाज करने के पश्चात् भी वहां से भारतीय वापस आये अथवा नहीं; और आए तो उनके साथ मैज-ट्रीटमेंट और हेरासमेंट नहीं हुआ, इसकी जांच की अथवा नहीं ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir they were interned at a time when there was that conflict and it is well known that at that time even the protests or suggestions that were made were not at all listened to. After the cease-fire, these protests continued to be lodged. There was some improvement, but still the condition continued to be unsatisfactory. Now that the repatriation is nearing completion, perhaps it may not be very wise for us to continue to look at the past.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जान सकूंगा कि क्या उनके जानकारी में यह बात है कि अभी परसों के रोज़ अखबारों में यह खबर थी कि कुछ आदमी वापस आने के लिए जो समय मुकर्रर था उस समय पर नहीं आ सके ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : मैंने यह कहा है कि अभी पूरी तरह दोनों तरफ से जिन्होंने अपने अपने देश में जाना था वह मुकम्मिल नहीं हुआ । हो सकता है कि कुछ वक्त पर न पहुंचे हों, मगर इसमें कोई खास झगड़े की बात दोनों देशों में नहीं है ।

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, if the Government are in a position to assure this House that the return of the internees and exchange of prisoners of war will be completed before the date set for the withdrawal of the two armies to August 5 lines?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have every reason to hope that this will be completed much earlier.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN PAKISTAN

*9. **SHRI S. SUPAKAR:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps for their repatriation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) So far 1,018 Indian Defence personnel have been declared by Pakistan as having been captured by them as Prisoners of War.

(b) In accordance with the Tashkent Declaration, three exchanges of Prisoners of War on both sides have taken place on 22nd January 1966, 2nd February 1966 and 8th February 1966 and, so far, 731 Indian Defence personnel captured by Pakistan have been repatriated.

SHRI S SUPAKAR: I understand that the process of repatriation is to be completed by the 25th of February. If that is so, may I know if all our men and officers are to come back by that date?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: There is nothing like a final date in this matter. It is expected that it would be completed even before that.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Would the Minister tell us how many Pakistani prisoners of Defence personnel were taken by us?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I think we have returned almost all: 574 prisoners of war and other prisoners 163.

SHRI A. D. MANI: How many were taken by us?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: 574 plus 163.

SHRI S. SUPAKAR: How many prisoners of war are still under the control of Pakistan?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: According to the list that they have supplied it is 1018, and they have returned 731. But even out of the 731 who

have been returned 62 persons were not in the original list, so that this number cannot be held to be quite firm. We are expecting that the rest will also be returned soon.

*10. [The questioners (Shri Sitaraj Jaipuria and Shri Ramgopal Gupta) were absent. For answer vide col 82 infra.]

*11. Transferred to the 24th February, 1966.

*12. [The questioner (Shrimati Shakuntala Paranjpye) was absent. For answer vide col. 83 infra]

MAZAGON DOCKYARD

*13. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government's programme for the construction of frigates and other war ships at the Mazagon Dockyard is going on according to the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): Yes, Sir, the programme for the construction of frigates at the Mazagon Dock is progressing according to schedule.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: May I know what are the targets and if there are any programmes for further expansion?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Yes Sir, the expansion programme is already under way. According to the expansion programme there should be two slipways, and both ways have been more or less completed. There is the Kasara Basin expansion scheme, and there are also the various workshops and other things. They are all going on according to schedule.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Would the Minister give a little more information about the schedule? When does he expect the work to be fully completed?