

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) and (b) We are yet in the 4th year of the Third Five Year Plan; we do not know how much the Aid-India Club will make available in the last year of the Plan and it is hence not possible to say whether there will be any shortfall in the utilisation of foreign credit made available by the Aid-India Club in the Third Five Year Plan.

IMPORT OF RADIO COMPONENTS

92. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the Minister of INTERNATIONAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received a memorandum from the Small-scale Radio and Sound Equipments Manufacturers Association, Delhi regarding the import policy for radio components for the year 1964-65;

(b) if so, the points made in the memorandum; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

FIRING ON REFUGEES IN ORISSA

93. { SHRI A. M. TARIQ:
SHRI SANKAR PRATAP
SINGH DEV:

Will the Minister of REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are aware that there was firing on refugees coming from East Pakistan in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the circumstances that led to the firing?

THE MINISTER OF REHABILITATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving the facts is attached.

STATEMENT

The Government of Orissa have opened five camps, which include Sunabeda and Tiruvelli, under a programme to resettle 5,000 migrant families in small-scale industries. Agricultural land available in the country being limited, it is inevitable that a large proportion of the migrant families should be resettled in occupations other than agriculture. Pending establishment of small industries in these areas for permanent opportunity of temporary employment in unskilled jobs (e.g. earth work for road building, railway track and contour bending, bamboo cutting, brick loading and unloading, stone quarry work, work as helpers for masons etc.) have been arranged for the entire adult population of these camps and also for some skilled workers among them (e.g. carpenters, teachers, clerks, masons, blacksmiths, brick moulders etc.). The employment opportunities are being displayed prominently on notice boards and also through cyclostyled charts and are being announced to the displaced persons practically every day in each camp by the rehabilitation staff at the camps. No compulsion or force of any kind is, however, used to make the migrants to work.

2. The total number of families staying at Tiruvelli camp on 18th May 1964 was 597. As the families arrived at Tiruvelli, they started demanding settlement on agricultural land only. They were, however, advised to avail of employment opportunities in non-agricultural work which had been arranged near the camp, for all adult males. They were also told that the Orissa Government did not have any agricultural land on which they could be rehabilitated.

3. On the 16th May, the migrants gave an ultimatum to the Rehabilitation Officer of the camp that unless

the Government decided to provide them land within 24 hours, they would get the demand fulfilled by resorting to other means. Out of the 597 families in Tiruvelli camp, about 375 deserted the camp on the 17th and 18th May and reached the Tiruvelli railway station. On 18th May, the migrants threatened the Assistant Station Master, Tiruvelli, with serious consequences if he failed to arrange special train for them within one hour for their return to the transit centre at Mana. The Minister in charge of Tribal and Rural Welfare in Orissa, the Deputy Rehabilitation Commissioner and the Additional Superintendent of Police, Koraput, advised them to return to the camp and not to disturb the peace and tranquility at that place but this had no effect. About 200 persons squatted on the railway track and thus delayed the departure of a train.

4. On the 19th May, the migrants assumed a violent mood and threatened to kill the Railway and other Government officers. The District Magistrate, Koraput, and the Rehabilitation Minister entreated them in Oriya and Bengali not to violate the law, and to clear the track and the platform. The District Magistrate also asked them to send two of their representatives to discuss their grievances with him there. This was, however, replied to by violent gestures and slogans and some more migrants jumped on the railway track. Seeing their threatening attitude and tendency to take law in their own hands, the District Magistrate promulgated orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure against 14 persons who were the main agitators. Warnings were issued on microphone in Oriya, Bengali and Hindi that their assembly had been declared unlawful. As this proved ineffective, the District Magistrate ordered immediate arrest of the leading agitators. The police party which included the Additional Superintendent of Police made two arrests but the mob surrounded the police offi-

cers and snatched away one of the arrested persons. The situation, therefore, demanded immediate use of force to disperse the mob and to rescue the officers who had been surrounded.

5. Owing to unfavourable conditions, tear-gas could not be used and, therefore, a lathi charge was ordered. As soon as the charge started, big sized stones were hurled by the mob. Several agitated migrants took out tangias (a sort of axe), lathis and knives and started brandishing them. A Sub-Inspector of Police was hit on the head by a big stone and another stone hit a constable on the chest. An officer of the police party, who went to rescue the Additional Superintendent of Police, was thrown on the ground by the mob and belaboured. 15 police personnel including the Additional Superintendent of Police and two Assistant Commandants received injuries and were later admitted to hospital. Seven members of the police party received serious injuries including fractures.

6. Having regard to the situation that had developed, the District Magistrate was satisfied that no time could be wasted on a further lathi charge and that firing was the only alternative to disperse the violent mob and to save the lives of the police officers who were subjected to brutal attack by the mob. The District Magistrate, therefore, ordered the dispersal of the mob by fire. Before opening fire, due warning was given on the microphone. The firing was done under the control of the Superintendent of Police and 12 rounds were fired. Two persons died at the spot, three died en route to hospital and one died in the hospital. Six other persons from the mob also received injuries. Some persons have been arrested. Police investigation against them is in progress. The others have all returned to the camp and the position is now peaceful and under control.