

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA:

•453. [The questioner (Shri Deoki. nandan Narayan) was absent. For answer, vide eol. 2293 infra.]

OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN DANDAKARANYA PROJECT

•454. SHRI J. C. CHATTERJI: Will the Minister of REHABILITATION AND MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of officers employed in the Dandakaranya Project;
- (b) how many of them are from the Central Government; and
- (c) how many of them belong to the Governments of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF REHABILITATION (SHRI P. S. NASKAR): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

SHRI J. C. CHATTERJI: While selecting the officials, have the Government kept in view the fact that these men were not to be there only to earn money, but to have a sympathetic attitude towards the displaced persons who are the innocent victims of the communal division of the country?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I am sorry, Sir, that such an insinuation has been made. It is entirely uncalled for. It is not easy for me to find officers to be in charge of the Dandakaranya Project and I am trying and doing my best to see that I select the right type of person.

SHRI J. C. CHATTERJI: When they were transferred to Dandakaranya, were these officials duly trained and instructed that they were going there with a mission to render all possible help to the unfortunate men?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: When I want a technical man who is an engineer, I have to select an engineer. When I want a man who deals with forests, soil conservation or mining, I have to select such a man. But when I appoint *sevaks* and group leaders, I generally try and select the people of the type that the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI J. C. CHATTERJI: May I know whether some of these persons—I mean, the displaced persons engaged in digging earth on a very low wage have resorted to strike as a protest against that?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: There was one strike for a day and the number of persons involved was five. We looked into the matter, and whatever difficulties were there or did arise, they were attended to. But unfortunately, some of my friends who go from other places to Dandakaranya have been accustomed to hunger strikes and some kinds of demonstrations all these years. They are getting out of that habit gradually.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes. May I know whether it is a fact that earlier it was decided that selection of such officials would be made on the basis of the recommendation of the Cabinet Sub-committee, a Ministerial Sub-committee and whether in the matter of selection, that particular Sub-committee is still functioning and if not, how is the selection made?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has more information than I have.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is not the answer. I wanted to know—I have asked a question—whether there was any Cabinet Sub-committee or some such Sub-committee that would make the selection.

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: There is no question of any committee at any level. I am the Minister

in-charge of that project. I have certain powers vested in me and I have vested certain powers in the D.D.A., and they are exercising those powers.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:- May I know, Sir, if it is not a fact that originally it was decided that the Dandakaranya Project administration would be an autonomous body under the Government of India and that a Cabinet Sub-committee or a Ministerial Sub-committee would look after it, and it is only later, somehow or other it seems, that the Rehabilitation Ministry has arrogated to itself the task which did not initially belong to it?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: If he is seeking information for the debate which is initiating to-

MKMTOW . . .

SHRI V. K. DHAGE:, Today. MR.

CHAIRMAN: Next question.

CULTIVATION OF LANDS IN INDIAN TERRITORY BY PAKISTANIS

*455. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent press report to the effect that the East Pakistani cultivators under armed powers of the Pakistani forces are regularly infiltrating into the Indian side of the border and forcibly cultivating and harvesting the lands of the Indian cultivators; and

(b) what effective steps are being taken by Government to protect the life and property of the Indian cultivators along the eastern borders of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHAKSHI MENON): (a) The Government are not aware of any recent press report as mentioned in the question.

There have, however, been instances when Pakistani nationals backed by Pakistani Armed Forces have made fanciful claims to Indian fields mainly on the Khasi and Jaintia Hills border of Assam and also made attempts to cultivate or harvest Indian fields on that border. Some of these attempts led to firing incidents. In all cases these attempts at encroachment have been resisted.

(b) Indian authorities at the local as well as central level are constantly in touch with Pakistani authorities to prevent any encroachment from the Pakistan side. In addition, Indian border forces have standing instructions to resist encroachment into Indian territory.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What I wanted to know was whether the encroachments which the Pakistan people were making on India, were made under cover of the Pakistani armed forces, or not.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Most of these so-called encroachments, Sir, are petty disputes between rival farmers, one on this and the other on the other side, but they become important because, some-times, they are backed up by armed forces. Otherwise they come over during the season to a field which might have perhaps belonged to them before partition because they cannot get over the fact that partition has occurred and changes have taken place. Normally these disputes would be petty police matters in one country, but because there is an international frontier now, they become international matters.

*456 to *453. [Postponed to the 8th September, 1959.]

REPORT OF THE ECONOMY COMMITTEE* OF THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY PARTY

*459. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently received any report from the Economy Committee of the Congress Parliamentary Party; and