

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, 10th March, 1959

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

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*491 and *492. [The questioner (Shri Nawab Singh Chauhan) was absent. For answers, vide cols. 3181—85 infra.]

DISPLACED PERSONS LIVING ON THE PLATFORMS OF SEALDAH STATION

*493. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of REHABILITATION AND MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any displaced persons from East Bengal are living on the platforms and in the compound of Sealdah Station;

(b) if so, what is their number; and

(c) whether Government have any plans regarding the settlement of these displaced persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF REHABILITATION (SHRI P. S. NASKAR):

(a) and (b). According to the recent survey made by the State Government, there were 1022 families squatting in the Sealdah Station precincts. Of these, 612 were displaced families and the rest 410 others.

(c) Steps are being taken to disperse the displaced families to rehabilitation sites. About 260 families have already been dispersed during the last six months.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know what this 'others' means?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: According to us they would be non-displaced persons.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether they are also from East Bengal?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, if they had come after the 1st March 1947, they would have been treated as displaced persons.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Therefore there is a time limit. May I know the reason why so many people have been left there when firstly the migration has practically stopped and secondly there are possibilities of removing them to proper rehabilitation sites?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: On 1st January 1957 I had about 3½ lakh displaced persons on my hands in camps and at the Sealdah Station. About a lakh have already been removed and according to my programme I hope to remove another one lakh this year. So everything possible is being done.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am not talking about the one lakh. I am talking about those people who are today on the Sealdah Railway Station platform and in places near about. May I know by when these people will be removed to proper rehabilitation sites so that this spectacle of misery and suffering is no longer there?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: We discussed this question with the State Government only about a month ago. With your permission I would like to give the break-up of these 1,022 families. Two hundred and four families have got migration certificates, border slips etc. Three hundred and seventy five are deserters from camps and colonies in West Bengal and 33 are deserters from colonies outside. As far as those who are deserters from colonies within West Bengal, i.e., 375 families; they have to go back to the colonies within West Bengal from where they have deserted. As regards the 33 families who have come from outside, about 11 families, I think, are from camps and 22 families from

rehabilitation sites. I have asked the State Government to examine the cases of all these families so that expeditious action can be taken in the matter of their dispersal and rehabilitation.

*494. [The questioner (Shrimati Savitry Devi Nigam) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3185 infra.]

REPORT OF THE COIR ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

*495. SHRI P. A. SOLOMON: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coir Enquiry Committee has submitted its report to Government; and

(b) if so, what is the date on which it was submitted?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 9th December, 1958.

SHRI P. A. SOLOMON: May I know what are the main contents of the Report?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As soon as the Report is considered and the Resolution is decided upon, I shall place the Report and the Resolution on the Table of the House.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: May I know when the Government expect to come to a decision on the findings and publish the Report?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It was received on 9th December and we have to send it to the States and all that. Naturally it takes a few months.

VISAS GRANTED TO PAKISTANIS FOR VISITING ASSAM

*496. SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons who were allowed to come to Assam

from Pakistan under each class of visa during the years 1956 and 1957 and up to July in the year 1958; and

(b) how many of these persons have returned to Pakistan in accordance with the terms and conditions of the visas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b). The information is detailed in the attached statement. [See Appendix XXIV, Annexure No. 36.]

SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: May I know the different kinds of visas in use with the respective rights, privileges and period of stay allowed under each kind or class of visa?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: All this information is available in the India-Pakistan Passport-cum-Visa Rules. If you will give me time, Sir, I shall read out the whole thing. There are many categories of visas, B, C, D, E, and F and Transit visas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has he been supplied with the statement?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No, Sir. This is the information about the different categories of visas which have been in the country since 1948.

SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: Is it a fact that many Pakistani nationals coming from Pakistan as agricultural and industrial labour to tea gardens in Cachar, Nowgong and Kamrup Districts are mixing with the Indian nationals and they have enlisted their names in the voters' list, and if the Government has no information, may I know whether they propose to make any enquiry about it?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: For one thing, this does not arise from this question—whether these people are mixing with the local labour and things like that. I am sorry I want separate notice.