RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, 10th September 1958

Oral Answers

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

•437. [The questioner (Shri M. Basavapunnaiah) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2585 infra.]

INFILTRATION OF EAST PAKISTANI MUSLIMS INTO TRIPURA AND CACHAR

•438. Shri J. C. CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that due to unauthorised infiltration and settlement of a large number of East Pakistani Muslims inside Tripura and Cachar, the local Hindus there feel insecure and even terrorised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): There have been some cases of infiltration of persons from East Pakistan into Tripura; but there is no cause for alarm or public insecurity.

No information is at present available about Assam.

SHRI J. C. CHATTERJI: My information is that the number of persons who have infiltrated into Tripura territory as well as Cachar district of Assam during the last three years is near about a lakh, but the reply was only about 18 persons on the first of this month. So, I would like to know whether infiltrations are taking place within the knowledge and connivance of the subordinate Government officials who earn a lot by this process.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: There is no question of connivance by subordinate Government officers or others. Sometimes they do take place and proper steps are taken under the foreigners' law.

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SHRI J. C. CHATTERJI: May I know whether the Government would hold enquiries in these cases through a committee consisting of officials and non-officials, including Members of Parliament, because the matter is of great concern from the point of view of our economy as well as defence.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: A committee ia not necessary.

श्री पां० ना० राजभोज: क्या मंत्री महोदय बता सकते हैं कि सरकार इन मुस्लिम्स पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने के लिये क्या कर रही है ? दूसरे, कितने मुस्लिम्स गैर कानूनी ढंग से आये हैं श्रीर कितनों पर कानूनी कार्यवाही की गई है ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: That is a general question. Here it is a question about unauthorised infiltration. Whenever they do take place and are discovered, proper action is taken against them.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: It is a question of infiltration of Pakistanis, not of Muslims alone—is it not?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: It is from East Pakistan.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: May I know, Sir, who are responsible for that in Pakistan?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What he wants to know is: Do the Pakistanis include both Muslims and Hindus or only Hindus?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Naturally those who come from East Pakistan are considered as infiltrating into India in an unauthorised manner.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: If there is any question of insecurity among the people there, the insecurity is for Indians and not among Muslims alone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a statement, not a question.