

the verdict of the Municipal Councilors of Chandernagore, what stands in the way in accepting the verdict of the chosen representatives of Kashmir on the issue of accession? Has the Government tried to invite the attention of the parties concerned?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir, we have not; we did not think there was much relevance in such comparison.

SHRI M. P. N. SINHA: May I know, Sir, what is the number of the Pakistan Army occupying certain territory of Kashmir at present? Have the Government any information?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: We certainly have some broad ideas, but we have no accurate information as to the size of the army of Pakistan there.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Since the last meeting took place in Delhi, has any correspondence passed between the two Prime Ministers for the next meeting, as to when it is likely to be held? Was not the meeting proposed to be held some time ago?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir. At the time of the last meeting, no date was fixed for the next meeting and since then there has been no such correspondence and no reference otherwise to the date of a possible next meeting. The hon. Member will no doubt remember that during this period there have been Governmental changes and various other developments in Pakistan.

*92. [For answer, vide col. 572 *infra*.]

INFLUX OF HINDUS FROM EAST PAKISTAN TO WEST BENGAL

*93. DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 438, in the

Rajya Sabha on 7th April 1955, and state:

(a) the extent of exodus of Muslims from West Bengal to East Pakistan up-to-date; and

(b) what further steps Government have taken to check the movement of the refugees from East Pakistan into West Bengal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) 75 persons have so far migrated from West Bengal to East Pakistan on Pakistan Migration Certificates since the introduction of the Indo-Pakistan Passport and Visa Scheme of travel on the 15th October 1952.

(b) The question of the exodus of non-Muslims from East Bengal was discussed between the Rehabilitation Minister of the Government of India and the Pakistan Minister for the Interior in Karachi, on the 9th April 1955. As a result of these discussions, the Government of Pakistan issued a Press statement assuring the minorities living in East Bengal that they would take all measures to safeguard the rights and privileges of the minorities and that they would be prepared to take back in their original homes all migrants who wish to return. This statement was given wide publicity in both countries.

Shri Anil K. Chanda, deputising for the Indian Minister for Minority Affairs, and Mr. Ghyasuddin Pathan, Pakistan Minister for Minority Affairs, also undertook a joint tour of certain areas of East Pakistan, West Bengal and Tripura from the 15th April 1955 to the 23rd April 1955. The Indian Minister for Minority Affairs wrote in this connection to the Pakistan Minister for Minority Affairs, who replied that the Government of Pakistan were taking effective steps to redress the grievances of the minorities in East Pakistan.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: May we know what was the assessment of the Deputy Minister who had undertaken the tour in East Bengal along with Mr. Ghyasuddin Pathan about the conditions of the minorities there, and if he had submitted any report to the Government and, if so, what are the salient points of that Report?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, Sir, the Deputy Minister submitted a report to Government about it in which he gave his own analysis of the situation. He mentioned a number of factors, the most important being the economic factor and a feeling of uncertainty among the minorities there about their future, due chiefly to the treatment that they were getting there. These are the major factors.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: On how many occasions in the past had these representations been made to the Government of Pakistan and the Pakistan Government had assured that the minorities would be duly protected and had also issued communications to that effect, and what have been the effects thereafter?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I cannot tell the hon. Member how many times this fact was brought to their notice. I suppose it must be a large number of times, both orally between Ministers and by correspondence, and naturally, whenever this was done, assurances were received. Sometimes, during this period there has been improvement—since 1950. It started in the main in 1950 and after what was called the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact, there was a considerable improvement in the situation. Many people went back. Now that position has deteriorated and in the course of the last one year, I think probably about 9 or 10 months, there has been a continuous stream. Of course there has been, what might be called, no major inci-

dent in East Bengal, but the general conditions as such have deteriorated to such an extent, in so far as the minorities are concerned, that they have come; and rather a new type of persons has come, the agriculturists and others who previously had not come. All I can hope is that in view of the changes that have taken place in the Governmental structure there, perhaps those assurances would be given effect to.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is true, Sir, that the economic factor is a very vital factor in the situation. May I know, in that case, Sir, whether the Government has discussed any measures or steps for reviewing the economic relations between the two Bengals, which have been disrupted very badly, resulting in aggravation of the economic crisis there?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Government has frequently discussed with the Pakistan Government various economic measures, trade, etc., and sometimes some agreements have been arrived at, but I do not think that there has so far been any great effect on that particular situation and the economic factor. There may be, of course, with the development of relations, with economic plans that India may make out, but I imagine that the economic malaise is deeper there.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Have the Government of India received any report from the Government of West Bengal about their assessment of the situation there and have the Government of West Bengal expressed any apprehension that this flow from East Bengal to West Bengal may continue and that it is not likely to cease?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, Sir. We have received communications from time to time from the West Bengal Government. We are naturally greatly perturbed about

this matter. All of us are perturbed; they, being affected most closely, are most perturbed. We have been hearing from them on the subject and they have expressed their apprehension, as the hon. Member has mentioned. But whether in view of the recent changes they will change their opinion or something else might happen there, I do not know.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON DISPLACED PERSONS

*94. DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJEE: Will the Minister for REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the total expenditure of Rs. 223.68 crores incurred on displaced persons up to 1954-55, the expenditure incurred on displaced persons from West Pakistan amounts to Rs. 153.39 crores and on displaced persons from East Pakistan Rs. 70.29 crores only; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this disparity?

THE MINISTER FOR REHABILITATION (SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA):

(a) Yes.

(b) Migration of displaced persons from West Pakistan to India started in 1947 and by the end of 1948, 46.14 lakh displaced persons had reached India. As against this, only 10.13 lakh displaced persons from East Pakistan had come to India up to the end of that year. From 1950 onwards, there had been very little migration from West Pakistan but migration from East Pakistan has been continuous and is on the increase. In the early period, large amounts were, therefore, spent on the rehabilitation of the displaced persons from West Pakistan. The displaced persons from East Pakistan however have presented a different problem. Their migration was slow, spasmodic, and spread over a number of years. In the eastern region the problem became acute only after 1950. Since then adequate funds have been allotted annually.

Additional reason for this disparity is that the number of West Pakistan Displaced Persons is comparatively larger than East Pakistan Displaced Persons. West Pakistan Displaced Persons number 47 lakhs approximately, as against 34 lakh East Pakistan Displaced Persons.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: Is it a fact, Sir, that the Evacuee Property Act is applicable neither to East Bengal, nor to West Bengal, whereas in West Punjab and East Punjab these Evacuee Property Acts are in force, in consequence whereof the refugees from East Bengal who come to West Bengal continue to get income from the property which they have left in East Bengal?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: That is the correct position.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know how much out of this sum of Rs. 70.29 crores spent on displaced persons from East Pakistan, has been spent for administrative purposes, and how much for giving loans to displaced persons?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, I have not got the figure in respect of the sum spent for administrative purposes, but it cannot be very heavy. However, the break-up of this figure of Rs. 70.29 crores is as follows: Grants Rs. 29.13 crores; Loans other than housing Rs. 22.48 crores; Housing Rs. 16.47 crores; Establishment Rs. 0.14 crores; Miscellaneous Nil; Loans by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Rs. 2.07 crores. That will make a total of Rs. 70.29 crores.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: With reference to the answer given to Shri Kapoor's question, may I know, apart from the theoretical income that East Pakistan refugees may get from East Bengal, has the hon. Minister got figures for the amount of money actually received by them?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA. You mean the amount of money that