

SHRI M. VALIULLA: YOU have said in the Statement: "Compensation applications from the residual body of claimants were invited on the 27th June 1955 and all efforts are being made to implement the compensation scheme as early as possible."

May I know how many applications have been received under that category?

SHRI J. K. BHONSLE: Under that category there were 3,50,000 applications.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: In the Statement it is said: "Evacuee properties in most of the States have been acquired and sales are going on". May I know how much money has been realized now; how much amount is yet to be realized and how many more sales are yet to take place?

SHRI J. K. BHONSLE: I cannot say how much has been realized, but the evacuee property pool is roughly of the order of about a hundred crores of rupees, and further sales are going on in various States.

*89 & *90. [*The questioner (Shri J. V. K. Vallabharao) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 581—583 infra.*]

INDO-PAKISTAN DIFFERENCES ON KASHMIR ISSUE

*91. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the present stage of Indo-Pakistan differences on Kashmir issue?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): No further developments have taken place in regard to this matter since the last meeting of the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and India in Delhi. At that time the

question was fully discussed and it was decided that these talks should be carried on at a future date.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know, Sir, in which year the Government of India was committed to a plebiscite in Kashmir and also whether the context of that situation has not changed since the ratification of accession by the Kashmir Constituent Assembly?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not quite understand the first part of the hon. Member's question about the date. The history of this Kashmir affair goes back to the last nearly eight years. The first time, I think, that mention was made, not to a plebiscite but to a consultation or a reference to the people, was by the Government of India at the time of the accession. That was a unilateral statement that they would like the people to be consulted about it later. Then probably two years later, that would be 1949, I am not sure, there was a Resolution of the United Nations Commission in which reference was made to a plebiscite, provided certain conditions were fulfilled. That Resolution was accepted later, to begin with, by India and later by Pakistan. Since then, there have been numerous discussion* about the fulfilment of the conditions preceding the plebiscite and those discussions have not led to any settlement between the two—the conditions have not been fulfilled and there the matter rested. Meanwhile, of course all kinds of things have happened; all kinds of developments have taken place, as the hon. Member indicated, and all these have to be taken into consideration.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I ask whether the Government have invited the attention of the parties concerned to the fact that if the French Government could accept

the verdict of the Municipal Councillors 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 MOOK-ERJI: 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 at 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 at Pakistan were taking effective steps to redress the grievances of the minorities in East Pakistan.