

[SHRI A C GUHA]

might have been delayed for some time and I don't know what amount of human suffering would have been caused Sir, I had occasion to live in Calcutta and in an area which had about 98 per cent Muslims during the one year of Direct Action days I know what amount of human suffering, human misery, what amount of sacrifice of human sense and values the nation had to undergo during those days So I think the Government also recognizes that this nation owes something to the refugees And it is in recognition of that that the Government have spent Rs. 160 crores for their rehabilitation and have started this Rehabilitation Finance Administration Again there is the scheme for giving compensation to the refugees

There is always a scope for something more and there is always the feeling that something more might have been done But what should have been done has always to be limited by the financial position of the nation It is according to our financial position that we have to provide money for the refugees If it had been possible for the Government to provide more money for the refugees, I am sure everybody in the Government would have been only too glad to do that And if in the future, the financial position enables the Government to do that, I can assure the House that this Government will certainly do it This is borne out by the recent decision about giving compensation Some may say that it is meagre compensation Yes, I can admit that compared to what they have lost, individually and collectively, this sum is a meagre compensation But I should like to remind the House that what we have achieved as regards rehabilitation what we have done for the refugees, compares favourably with the achievements of other countries Recently I had occasion to meet a young German who himself is a refugee from Eastern Prussia now a part of Soviet Union He took care to go round some of the refugee townships and refugee colonies and he himself told me that

compared to the conditions of the refugees in Germany, the position here was much better.

SHRI S N MAZUMDAR May I know whether it is the policy of the Government of India to consider East Germany as part of the Soviet Union?

SHRI A C GUHA If my hon friend will only hear me I have not said East Germany, but I said Eastern Prussia, now part of the Soviet Union

SHRI S N MAZUMDAR It is not part of U S S R

SHRI A C GUHA Yes, it is a part of U S S R I can only say that compared to the position of refugees in other countries, the position of the refugees here is much better I do not like to be complacent I do not like to say that we are content at what we have achieved I am ready to admit that we should have done more We might have done more, provided funds had enabled us to do that

Sir I have nothing more to say I think I have dealt with almost all the points that were raised and I request the House to pass the Bill

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI B C GHOSE) The question is

"That the Bill be passed"

The motion was adopted

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SEA CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B C GHOSE) The next item that we have to take up is the Sea Customs (Amendment) Bill, 1953

SHRI C G K REDDY (Mysore). Sir, the Minister is tired and only five more minutes are left

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A C GUHA) Is it much use taking it up now?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. C. GHOSE): In that case I have an announcement which I shall make.

I have to inform Members that as it is a Money Bill under rule 162(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States the Chairman has allotted two and a half hours for the completion of all stages involved in the consideration

and return of the Sea Customs (*Amendment*) Bill, 1953 by the Council, including the consideration and passing of amendments, if any, to the Bill.

The House now stands adjourned to 1.30 P.M. tomorrow.

The Council then adjourned till half past one of the clock on Thursday, the 26th November 1953.