

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : It is a matter of language—a distinction the import of which I cannot sufficiently comprehend.

CLOSURE OF TEA GARDENS IN WEST BENGAL AND ASSAM

*32. SHRI S.N.MAZUMDAR : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tea gardens in West Bengal and Assam that have been closed recently due to financial stringency ;

(b) the number of labourers affected by the closure of those gardens ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Government to provide relief to the labourers thus affected ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T.T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) and (b). Precise information is not available and is being collected.

(c) Suitable action will be taken on receipt of the information if it is considered necessary.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether Government is contemplating the introduction of a State Insurance scheme for tea garden labourer?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : The question must be addressed to another quarter.

RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN

*33. SHRI D. NARAYAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of abducted women recovered from East and West Pakistan respectively every year since the 15th August 1947 ;

(b) the number of such women (i) who have been accepted by their old families or relations and (if) who are being cared for by Government ;

(c) what annual expenditure is being incurred by Government on the rehabilitation of those women ; and

(d) the number of abducted women returned respectively to East and West Pakistan every year since 1947 ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU) : (a) From West Pakistan, in :

1947 (from 6-12-47 to 31-12-47)	564
1948	5,099
1949	609
1950	871
1951	743
1952 (up to 30-6-1952) . . .	320
TOTAL	8,206

The required information relating to East Pakistan is not readily available. It will, however, be placed on the Table of the House in due course. It might be added that there are not many cases in East Pakistan.

(b) 8,071 out of those recovered from West Pakistan have been restored to their original families. In the case of 131 of them it has not yet been found possible to trace their relations. Four of them died in camps.

(c) After restoration to their original families, the recovered women are treated as other refugees for purposes of rehabilitation. The question of expenditure on the rehabilitation of such women only, therefore, does not arise.

(d)- To West Pakistan, in :

1947-48 (from 6-12-47 to 31-12-48)	8,872
1949	2,680
1950	1,430
1951	1,974
1952 (up to 30-6-52)	897
TOTAL	16,853

The required information relating to East Pakistan is not readily available. It will be placed on the Table of the House later.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : What is the number still left in West Pakistan ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : Nobody can say what the number still left in West Pakistan is. Enquiries are going on. People do not shout them out from house tops.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : Will the Prime Minister kindly tell us how many men according to the Government records are still left in Pakistan ? What is the ratio ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is the same question, which has been answered just now.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : In a different form.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN : Are there abducted women who desire to live with the men who had originally abducted them ? If so, how many, on each side—Pakistan side and India side ? Am I perfectly clear ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : The hon. Member is perfectly clear in his vagueness. Sometimes a case comes to our notice where the woman concerned is not quite clear in her mind as to whether she should go back or not. It is very difficult to know what her real opinion is, because there are so many factors present. That is why the procedure that is laid down is that in such cases they are kept in camps quietly so as to allow them to make up their minds after a month or two months, whatever it is, after seeing their relatives. The whole idea behind this is not to exercise any compulsion in the matter but allow them to decide after seeing their relatives. If they then decide not to go, they do not go.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN : If they decide to go with those people who originally abducted them, what is the policy of Government with regard to them ? Do Government allow them to go back, one way or the other, or not ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is : if they wish to go back, does the Government encourage them to go back ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : Where ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : To the people who abducted them.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : There is no question of their being sent. They were there with the so-called abductors. The machinery gets into touch with them and takes them away, let us presume, to a camp, where they are allowed to live quietly and to meet relatives, friends, etc. Now, it is for the woman to decide finally whether she is going to her relatives or to remain, presumably, with the abductor, or whoever he is. But, as a matter of fact, in a very large number of cases they prefer going back to their relatives.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR : May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent judgment delivered by the Punjab High Court declaring certain provisions of the Abducted Women's Recovery Act *ultra vires* of the Constitution ; and, if so, what steps do Government propose to take to amend the Act so as to bring it within the four corners of the Constitution, so that the unfortunate abducted women who are recovered may be restored to their original homes ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : The step which the Government is taking is to appeal to the Supreme Court against that judgment.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN : Do the Government propose to recognize these children as legitimate ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : The question of legitimacy does not arise at all.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN : Are the Government taking care of those children ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : Yes. Either the child goes to the mother or sometimes I believe to the father. Or else if nobody is prepared to look after it, the Government is making arrangements to look after such children.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR : Are any social workers functioning in Pakistan to recover abducted women from India and if so are such social workers permitted to work in what was formerly called the closed area in Pakistan ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : I cannot immediately reply to the last part of the question about the particular area. But there are and there have been a number of social workers in Pakistan who have done extraordinarily good work in this connection.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: If any abducted woman is allowed to remain with the abductor, does it not mean that recognition is given to abduction ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 34-

BHADRA PROJECT IN LAKKUVALLY IN MYSORE STATE

*34. SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION and POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether work on Bhadra project in Lakkuvally (Mysore State) has been started, and if so, what its estimated cost is ;

(b) the area which it is intended to irrigate after it is completed ; and

(c) whether Government have helped this project either by way of loan or by outright grants ?

The MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA): (a) Yes, Sir. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 20 crores.

(b) The project, on completion, is expected to irrigate 1,80,000 acres of land.

(c) Yes, Sir, by way of loan.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY : Is this project included in the programme of the Five Year Plan ?

SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA Yes, Sir.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY : What is the total amount that they are prepared to put forward for this Project, Sir ?

SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA : Sir, in the Plan a certain amount of Central assistance has been provided for the various States. The Mysore Government is going to have about 8 crores out of this money allotted for various projects.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY : I want to know what is the definite amount you are going to allow for this project which is a very huge one amounting 20 crores of rupees ?

SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA : Sir, this project is being carried out by the State and therefore the question does not arise.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY : As a result of Financial integration of Mysore with the Central Government and the prohibition policy adopted by the Mysore Government, are the Government aware that they will not be able to complete this project for another 40 years to come ?

SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA : It is not possible yet to say whether they will be able to complete the Project. A technical committee was appointed by States to recommend what amount should be allocated for this purpose.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Have any outright grants been made apart from the loans ?

SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA : Rs. 18 lakhs were given in the year 1951-52-

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Is that apart from the loan, Sir ?³

SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA : That is also a part of the loan.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Has the Mysore Government applied for more : grants over and above the loans for this Project ?