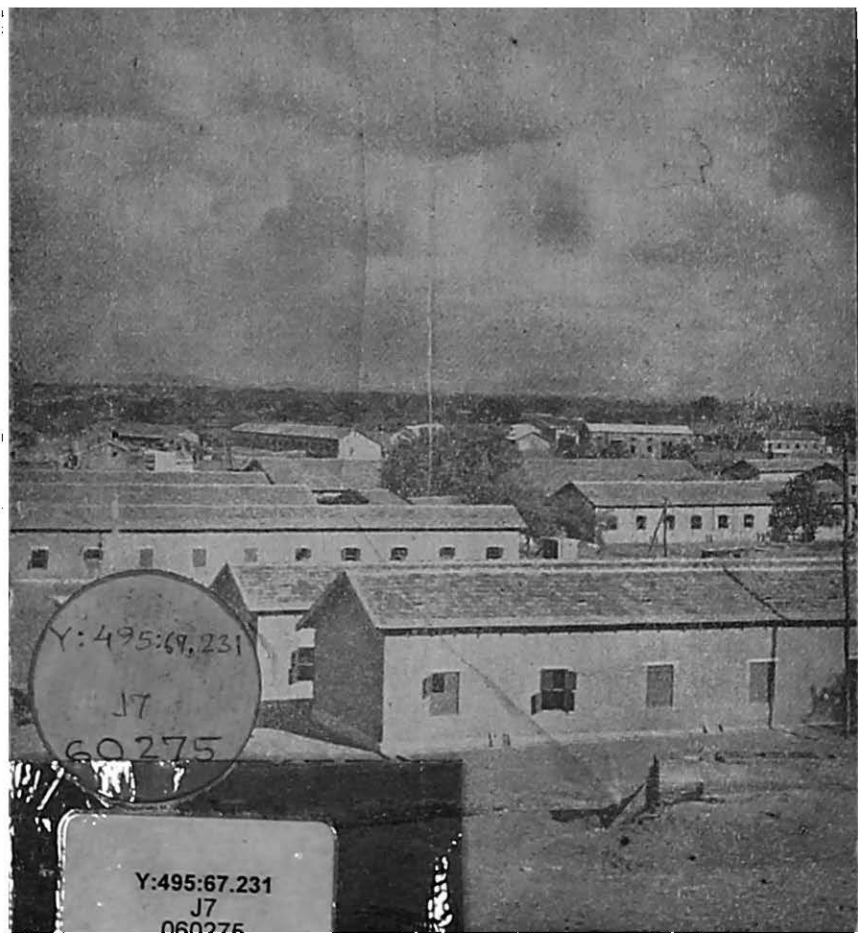


Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons in Bombay State



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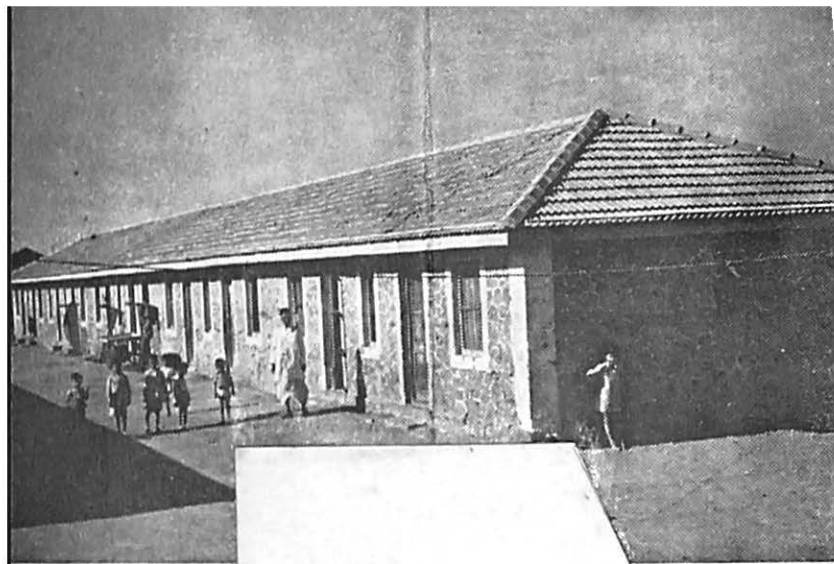
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A Decennial Retrospect



A block of ten

of Jamnagar.

Cover — Renovated tenements for Displaced Persons at Ulhasnagar Township near Kalyan, Bombay.

**REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN
BOMBAY STATE**

A Decennial Retrospect

The colossal problem of rehabilitation of Displaced Persons coming to India from Pakistan has been tackled by Governments, Central and State, with the utmost energy and drive and realisation that they are not strangers but our own kith and kin. Here is a brief account of the various measures taken for their rehabilitation in Bombay State during the past ten years.

REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN BOMBAY STATE

A Decennial Retrospect

WHEN the country was partitioned in August 1947, millions of persons migrated to Indian territory from areas that went under Pakistan, leaving behind them their homes and many other cherished possessions. The problem of relief and rehabilitation of those uprooted unfortunates and also of making them feel that they were no strangers to our land but our own kith and kin became a major national task. The Governments, Central and State, swiftly rose to the occasion and took up the task with the utmost energy and drive.

The rehabilitation of displaced persons is the responsibility of the Government of India. In fact, for a brief period in the beginning, the Government of India assumed direct responsibility for the relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons pouring in Bombay State from West Pakistan. In June 1948, however, the State Government was called upon to take over the responsibility and go ahead with the work. Most of the schemes of relief and rehabilitation were and are financed by the Government of India fully or partly in the form of grants and loans and implemented through the agency of the State Government.

Nearly 4,00,000 displaced persons from West Pakistan migrated to Bombay State. The more enterprising among them soon found their moorings and started life anew. The problem of relief and rehabilitation of the remaining became

the responsibility of the State Government with such assistance as was made available by the Central Government. In the initial phase, the main task was to provide shelter, food and clothing to the incoming displaced persons. This done the next step was one of permanent rehabilitation. In this the Government adopted a well-defined policy of helping those who helped themselves. The rehabilitation of unattached women, children, the aged and infirm presented special difficulties. Government decided to consider them more or less a semi-permanent liability and take care of them as such. In the case of others the policy was one of provision of certain basic amenities such as housing and of educational and economic facilities leading to gainful employment in one or the other trade, industry or profession.

Immediately on arrival in Bombay the displaced persons were accommodated in military barracks in nearby areas, which were either vacant or surplus with the Defence authorities. They were given free rations, clothing, medical aid and other basic necessities of life. Later partly with a view to curtailing the heavy expenditure and partly as a spur to displaced persons to earn an independent living, a policy was adopted of gradual termination of gratuitous relief and liquidation of some of the camps by dispersal of the inmates to certain selected towns and cities in the State where opportunities for gainful employment were fairly bright.

Permanent shelter being the immediate need, special attention was given to provision of housing for displaced persons. While some could be accommodated in evacuee houses — houses left behind by those who migrated to Pakistan, others have secured accommodation in the colonies and townships newly constructed for them. Those who wished to settle on land have been enabled to do so and their

rehabilitation has been assisted by loans and grants. Loans have been advanced to displaced persons engaged in different industries, trades and professions. Vocational and technical training centres have been established where training is imparted in different trades and crafts according to aptitude of the learners. Financial assistance is provided to educational institutions catering to educational needs of displaced students. Stipends, freeships, grants and scholarships are also given to displaced students. In order to expand employment opportunities in townships, schemes have recently been approved for encouraging the establishment of industries with a substantial measure of Government assistance.

The Compensation Scheme for displaced persons from West Pakistan, which may be regarded as the final stage in the rehabilitation programme, is now being implemented. Under the scheme evacuee properties are being acquired and utilised for payment of compensation to displaced persons who left their properties in West Pakistan. Such persons are termed "claimants" and others "non-claimants"

COLONIES AND POPULATION

PRIOR to reorganisation of the States, displaced persons in need of relief and rehabilitation in Bombay State totalled 1,53,593. They were mostly concentrated in one or more camps located in Greater Bombay area, Thana, Poona, Ahmednagar, Nasik and Ahmedabad districts. Some of the camps were subsequently liquidated and some were developed into colonies or townships. With the reorganisation of the State in 1956 their number swelled to 2,53,584. The details are as under:

<i>Colony/Township and Place or District</i>	<i>Population</i>
1. Thakkar Bappa Colony, Chembur.	1,520
2. Wadia Trust Estate, Kurla	4,002
3. Chembur Colony, Chembur	10,800
4. Mulund Colony, Mulund	6,507
5. Ulhasnagar Township, Kalyan	1,05,000
6. Kopri Colony, Thana	4,246
7. Sardarnagar Township, Ahmedabad	22,000
8. Wadaj Colony, Ahmedabad	4,000
9. Warshia Colony, Baroda	3,861
10. Rander Colony, Surat	1,239
11. Jamnagar Colony, Halar	2,824
12. Bhavnagar Colony, Gohilwad	7,500
13. Junagadh Colony, Sorath	375
14. Rajkot Colony, Madhya Saurashtra	1,200
15. Gandhi Dham, Kutch	32,953
16. Gandhi Upanagar Colony, Nasik	740
17. East Khandesh Settlements	7,721

18. West Khandesh Settlements	5,916
19. Dhulia Infirmary	523
20. Pimpri Colony, Poona	8,000
21. Gandhinagar Colony, Kolhapur	5,993
22. Ahmednagar and Shrirampur Settlements	1,797
23. Yeotmal District Settlements	2,335
24. Nagpur District Settlements	8,600
25. Buldana District Settlements	2,000
26. Amravati District Settlements	120
27. Akola District Settlements	1,316
28. Vehad Colony, Chanda	320
29. Bhandara District Settlements	176
	(families)
Total	<u>2,53,584</u>

DESTITUTE DISPLACED PERSONS

THE rehabilitation of destitute displaced persons, namely, unattached women, the aged and infirm, their dependents and orphan children presented special difficulties. It was neither fair nor possible to treat them on the same footing with the other able bodied and more resourceful displaced persons. Government, therefore, decided to take care of them on its own or through the assistance of institutions devoted to social service. To start with a home to accommodate destitute displaced women was opened in the Nari Seva Sadan, a home for displaced women at Kurla. Later together with the home for destitute women the Nari Seva Sadan was shifted to Ulhasnagar Township near Kalyan. One more home, Shanti Bhavan, was opened at Ulhasnagar in order to accommodate more destitutes who were in need of relief. Homes were also opened at Sardarnagar Township, Ahmedabad, and at the Gandhinagar Colony, Kolhapur. An infirmary to accommodate the aged and infirm and their dependents was opened at Dhulia in West Khandesh district. With the inclusion of Saurashtra and Kutch regions in the reorganised Bombay State four more homes were added to the list raising the total to nine.

The following table shows the number of homes where destitute displaced persons are housed, their location and management:

<i>Name of Home</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Management</i>
1. Nari Seva Sadan	Ulhasnagar Township	State
2. Shanti Bhavan	Ulhasnagar Township	-do-
3. Gandhinagar Colony Home	Kolhapur	-do-
4. Dhulia Infirmary	Dhulia (West Khandesh)	-do-

5. Kasturba Sevalaya	Sardarnagar (Ahmedabad)	Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust
6. Parsharti Griha	Kutiya (Sorath District)	Saurashtra Rachana- tmak Samiti
7. Parsharti Griha	Bantwa (Sorath District)	-do-
8. Vikas Home	Junagadh (Sorath District)	Trust for Sindhi Women and Children
9. Adipur Home	Adipur (Kutch District)	Sindhu Settlement Corporation Ltd.

The inmates here are taught to do some work like sewing and embroidery, according to their strength and aptitude. After training those able to stand on their own are released from the home with a rehabilitation grant of Rs. 250. Girls wishing to get married are given a marriage grant of Rs. 200 and released after marriage. Inmates with verified claims in respect of their properties in Pakistan are also released after settlement of the compensation amount under the Compensation Scheme.

There is no compulsion on the aged and infirm destitutes to reside in the homes or infirmaries. If they can arrange to stay with their friends or relatives they are paid a relief allowance of Rs. 15 p.m. and allowed to stay outside the homes.

There are about 5,800 destitutes residing in the homes. Destitutes residing outside the homes and receiving allowance number 650. Including the expenditure in former Saurashtra and Kutch areas, the total expenditure incurred so far on the relief and rehabilitation of destitute displaced persons amounts to Rs. 1226.72 lakhs.

In addition free gifts of various consumer articles were received for distribution to destitute displaced persons from His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Bombay from the

allotments placed at his disposal by the National Catholic Welfare Conference of U.S.A. Starting from 1954 and continued thereafter the gifts consisted of 9,255 cases of dried milk spray, 6,500 bags of rice, 4,776 cases of butter oil 1,000 cases of shortenings, 395 cases of processed cheese, 150 bags of wheat and 150 bags of corn. The articles were duly distributed to destitute displaced persons in the respective homes, colonies and townships.

HOUSING SCHEMES

Provision of permanent housing for residence and business being a vital factor in the rehabilitation programme, a very high priority was given to construction of residential tenements, shops and development of townships. Several schemes formulated for this purpose have either been executed or are in the process of execution. The manner in which the problem is dealt with in Bombay State can be broadly stated as follows —

- (1) Establishment of two new townships (Ulhasnagar and Sardarnagar)
- (2) Establishment of smaller colonies at Nasik, Pimpri, Mulund, Chembur and other suitable places.
- (3) Dispersal of displaced persons to small towns where smaller settlements are built for them as adjuncts to existing towns.
- (4) Promotion of private enterprise in house building by grant of loans to individuals and housing co-operatives of displaced persons and by release of building material at controlled prices.

The total cost on housing schemes for displaced persons is expected to be near about Rs. 15 crores. Tenements and shops built so far number 38,613 and 2,525 respectively and the expenditure thereof amounts to Rs. 977 lakhs. The details regionwise and districtwise are as under —

	<i>Tenements</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Expenditure</i> (Rs. in lakhs)
Former Bombay State	35,110	1,722	873
Saurashtra	2,617	271	53
Vidarbha	886	532	51

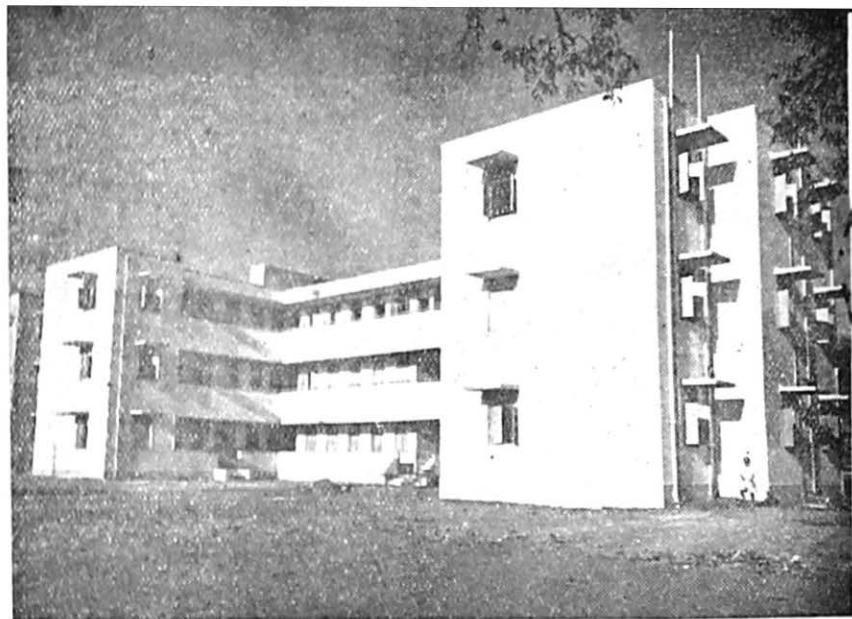
Districtwise Details

<i>Former Bombay State</i>	<i>Tenements</i>	<i>Shops</i>
<i>Greater Bombay</i>		
Ulhasnagar	15,803	431
Mulund	870	—
Chembur	1,704	160
Kurla	708	20
Kolwada	900	—
<i>Ahmedabad</i>		
Sardarnagar Township	4,600	232
Wadaj	660	—
<i>Baroda</i>		
Waroshia	934	20
		(also 22 stalls)
<i>Surat</i>		
Rander colony	600	100
<i>Kaira</i>		
Nadiad	75	—
<i>Poona</i>		
Pimpri	1,360	—
<i>Thana</i>		
Kopri	900	60
<i>Kolhapur</i>		
Valivde	1,398	—
<i>East Khandesh</i>	1,593	304
<i>West Khandesh</i>	2,026	356
<i>Nasik</i>	479	14
<i>Ahmednagar</i>		
Ahmednagar & Shrirampur	400	25
<i>Sholapur</i>	100	—
Total	<u>35,110</u>	<u>1,722</u>



Vocational training is an important plank in the programme for rehabilitation of Displaced Persons. Training in motor mechanics (top) and carpentry (bottom) are two of a number of courses taught in the training centres attached to townships and some of the colonies of Displaced Persons.

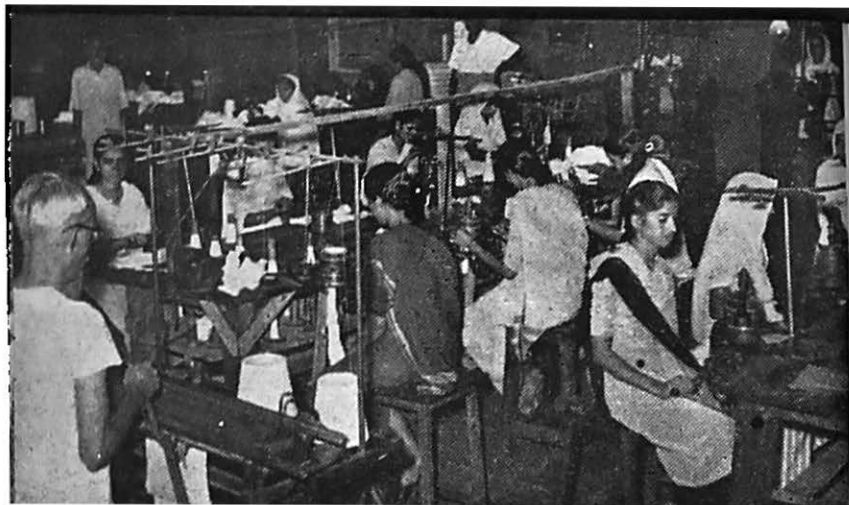




One of the buildings constructed for Displaced Persons at Chembur (Bombay). The building contains 36 tenements. The programme at Chembur envisages construction of 1,200 tenements.



Tenements for Displaced Persons constructed at Sardarnagar, Ahmedabad. As in Chembur here also the programme covers construction of 1,200 tenements.



Along with men women are also trained in suitable occupations. Hosiery (top), knitting and embroidery (bottom) and allied crafts are taught to them at the training centres and also at the Homes for Displaced Women (Nari Seva Sadans).



Saurashtra

Rajkot	315	112
Morvi	24	30
Jamnagar	800	39
Sindhupur	78	—
Junagadh	80	20
Bhaynagar	1,037	30
Palitana	283	40

Total	<u>2,617</u>	<u>271</u>
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(including 180
wooden cabins)

Vidarbha

Nagpur	420	10
Amravati	122	130
Yeotmal	68	34
Wardha	—	186
Bhandara	142	33
Akola	134	139

Total	<u>886</u>	<u>532</u>
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LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS & COOPERATIVES

Displaced persons residing outside the towns and colonies constructed for them, were also given financial assistance by way of loans for construction of houses individually or through their cooperatives. So far loans to the extent of Rs. 46.69 lakhs have been sanctioned in former Bombay area for construction of 1,268 tenements to 13 housing co-operatives of displaced persons and six individuals. Loans aggregating Rs. 26.73 lakhs and Rs. 11.40 lakhs have been advanced for construction of houses and shops respectively, in Vidarbha.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Vocational Training Centres. — In order to improve the prospects of employment for displaced persons, a Vocational Training Centre was started at Ulhasnagar in 1948 and one more at Sardarnagar, Ahmedabad, in the following year. The crafts taught at the centres are: turning and fitting, welding, electrical and wireman's courses, carpentry, leather work, tailoring and manufacture of hosiery goods and cane and bamboo articles. In addition facilities are provided at the training centre at Ulhasnagar for training in automobile engineering, moulding (foundry), manufacture of textile goods and in printing and book binding. The duration of the courses range from six months to one year. A stipend of Rs. 30 p.m. is paid to each trainee during the period of training.

There is also a Ladies Art Section attached to the Ulhasnagar centre. The courses taught here are, however, non-stipendiary.

The Vocational Training Centres have proved very useful in brightening the prospects of employment of displaced persons. So far round about 7,500 have completed training at the two centres.

Production Centres. — To provide ready employment for skilled displaced workers and those passing out from the vocational training centres, three production centres have been established — one each at Ulhasnagar, Pimpri and Valivde. The centres provide gainful employment to about 350 workers in industries such as carpentry and woodwork,

manufacture of cane and bamboo articles, leather goods, tailoring and hosiery, handloom weaving and in automobile and other engineering trades.

Training in carding, spinning and weaving is provided at the Harni Cottage Industries Centre, Baroda. About 200 displaced workers mostly women have found employment here. The yarn and other articles produced by them are purchased by the centre. They are also paid wages up to a maximum of Rs. 15 p.m. The centre is conducted at present by the Bombay State Village Industries Committee.

Training facilities have been provided for displaced persons in former Saurashtra areas, namely at Joravarnagar and Wadwan in Zalawad district, Rajkot and Morvi in Madhya Saurashtra district and at Jamnagar in Halar district. The training is mostly provided by private institutions with a measure of Government assistance. The facilities provided in some of the institutions have since been discontinued. At present arrangements are in force for training of children of displaced persons at the A. V. Parekh Technical Institute, Rajkot and at Shri Lakhdhirsinhji Training College, Morvi. The trainees are paid a stipend of Rs. 30 p.m. if they are "non-claimants" and Rs. 15 p.m. if they are "claimants". Displaced women are trained in tailoring, embroidery knitting, etc., at the Kanta Stri Vikas Griha and Mahila Udyog Mandal at Rajkot and the Nirvasit Narishala at Morvi. The Vikas Vidyalaya at Wadwan has also some displaced persons on its rolls. Training in nursing and midwifery is provided for displaced women at the Irwin Hospital at Jamnagar. Those wishing to learn tailoring, embroidery and allied crafts have the necessary facilities at Shri Jain Hindu Mahila Udyog Griha and at the Sarvodaya Mahila Mandal at Jamnagar.

EDUCATIONAL CONCESSIONS

Education is no less important in the permanent schemes of rehabilitation of displaced persons. Several concessions such as freeships, loans, stipends and assistance in other forms is granted to them. From 1948 until the end of 1956-57, displaced students totalling about 2,35,000 in all stages of education — primary, secondary and collegiate, have been benefited by the various schemes formulated for them. The financial assistance granted to them amounts to about Rs. 74,00,000. In addition loans and stipends were granted to displaced students studying in engineering and medical colleges. Students who benefited and the amount spent on them totalled 1,701 and Rs. 9,37,270 in the case of engineering institutions and 699 and Rs. 4,07,626 respectively in the case of medical institutions. The figures are for the new State of Bombay.

Displaced students studying in colleges are eligible for a stipend of Rs. 25 p.m. (science) and Rs. 20 p.m.(arts) if they have secured 60 per cent marks in the Secondary School Certificate Examination or the Intermediate Examination.

In Secondary Schools, in addition to full and half freeships, cash grants of Rs. 6 p.m. are paid to students in standards V - VIII and Rs. 15 p.m. to students in standards IX - XI. The concessions are subject to satisfactory progress and are granted if the monthly income of the parents or guardians does not exceed Rs. 100 in the case of students of standards V - VIII and Rs. 150 in the case of students of standards IX - XI. Freeships are granted in primary schools provided the monthly income of the parents or guardians does not exceed Rs. 100 and the progress of students is satisfactory.

Production of documents of registration as displaced persons, residence, income and non-receipt of compensation

is a necessary condition for grant of concessions in all stages — primary, secondary and collegiate education.

Scholarships are granted to children and wards of destitute displaced widows from West Pakistan, who are unable to prosecute their studies for want of funds and are living outside the relief homes and infirmaries. The scholarships are of the value of Rs. 10 p.m. in the case of students of standards I - VI and of Rs. 15 p.m. in the case of students of standards VII - XI.

Grants are also paid to educational institutions started for the benefit of displaced students, for purchase of land, construction of building and for procuring equipment. Grants totalling Rs. 24 lakhs have so far been sanctioned to 41 educational institutions — three colleges and 38 secondary schools located in Greater Bombay and other parts of the State.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

FINANCIAL assistance and other facilities are granted to displaced persons to enable them to settle in agriculture, industries and other avocations in rural and urban areas of the State. Schemes of Agricultural Colonisation have been sanctioned for settlement of agricultural families of displaced persons in Mehsana, Banaskantha, Baroda and Ratnagiri districts in former Bombay area. The main features of the schemes, which are organised on cooperative basis, are:

(1) Each family is given 8 to 13 acres of land for cultivation on new and impartible tenure.

(2) No assessment is charged for the first 3 to 5 years.

(3) Each family is given loans for purchase of bullocks, seed, manure and other agricultural requisites. The loans bear an interest of 4½ percent and are recoverable within 10 years, the recovery commencing from the second year of the grant of the loan. Loans advanced under the schemes total Rs. 16,64,700.

About 1,200 displaced families have been settled so far under the agricultural colonisation schemes.

Similar schemes are in force in Halar and Zalawad districts of former Saurashtra, in Kutch and in Chanda and Amravati districts of Vidarbha. Loans advanced to displaced agriculturists under the schemes aggregate Rs. 7,33,500 in Saurashtra, Rs. 2,04,200 in Kutch and Rs. 2,59,930 in Vidarbha.

IN URBAN AREAS

The scheme for grant of loans to displaced persons in urban areas to enable them to settle in trade, industry or in some other suitable avocation was started in 1948 with the assistance of loans advanced by the Government of India. The maximum loan admissible under the scheme to individuals was Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 25,000 to cooperatives. Interest at the rate of 3 per cent per annum was charged on the loans so granted. No recovery of the principal was made during the first three years and no interest was charged for the first year from the date of payment of the loan but full recovery of both principal and interest was effected within a maximum period of six years. Nearly Rs. 3,31,11,000 were granted this way to about 56,000 displaced persons in the areas now forming the new Bombay State upto the end of March 1956. The scheme was discontinued thereafter. At present only "claimant" displaced persons who are not on the priority list are eligible for such loans from the Government of India, on the recommendation of the State Government.

As a measure of further relief, loans upto Rs. 300 granted to "non-claimant" displaced persons from West Pakistan were remitted. Nearly 2,200 displaced persons were benefited under this remission scheme upto end of August 1956. Likewise loans granted to "non-claimant" displaced widows from West Pakistan for purchase of sewing machines have also been remitted.

In addition, loans bearing 3 to 3½ per cent interest and repayable in six years on easy terms, were sanctioned by the Government of India during the seven years ended 1954-55. The aggregate amount to be advanced was Rs. 1,60,63,000. Of this Rs. 1,46,98,350 were utilised for the purpose and the balance, Rs. 13,64,650, was surrendered to the Government of India.

Loans advanced under the urban schemes in the former Saurashtra region amounted to Rs. 44,90,000, in Kutch Rs. 5,86,405 and Vidarbha Rs. 78,64,450.

ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIES

In order to improve the opportunities for employment, the Government of India has evolved a scheme for starting large and medium scale industries in townships and colonies of displaced persons. The scheme is implemented by the State Government in consultation with the Government of India. Under the scheme, industrialists wishing to start industries are given substantial financial assistance by way of loans on easy terms and provision of land and buildings on hire purchase basis. Other facilities such as supply of electricity at concessional rate and water will also be provided. The industrialists have to give an undertaking that they would recruit as many skilled and semi-skilled workers and all unskilled workers required by them from among the displaced persons of the area. Loans aggregating Rs. 24,22,900 have been sanctioned to six concerns for establishing pencil, plastic, radio, weaving and other industries in Ulhasnagar Township and Rs. 12,000 to an industrial co-operative of displaced persons at Pimpri (Poona). A non-recurring grant of Rs. 1,300 and a recurring grant not exceeding Rs. 500 have also been sanctioned to the industrial cooperative at Pimpri for providing training to workers.

Schemes of 10 other firms involving an outlay of Rs. 30 lakhs by way of loans to them have been recommended to the Government of India. Schemes of three more firms requiring assistance to the extent of about Rs. 10 lakhs are under scrutiny of the State Government.

COTTAGE AND SMALL INDUSTRIES

There is also a scheme sponsored by the Government of India for setting up small-scale and cottage industries in townships and colonies of displaced persons. Schemes of cottage industries costing upto Rs. 5,000 and of small industries upto Rs. 10,000 are sanctioned by the State Government. Schemes involving higher outlay are referred to the Government of India. Private individuals, companies, co-operatives and also the State Government can set up small scale and cottage industries under the scheme. Three-fourths of the investment on land, building, machinery and working capital will be advanced as loan. The remaining one-fourth will have to be provided by the party—individual or institution, concerned.

A high-power Committee consisting of representatives of the State Government, displaced persons and of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Commission has been set up for sanctioning schemes which are within the powers of the State Government. Local Advisory Committees consisting of officials and non-officials have also been set up in townships and colonies of displaced persons for scrutinising applications for financial assistance under the scheme. A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs is provided for the scheme during the current year (1958-59).

EMPLOYMENT UNDER GOVERNMENT

Displaced persons seeking employment under Government were considered on an equal footing with other domiciles of the State in recruitment to Bombay State civil services. Orders prescribing age limits were relaxed in the case of those who were in continuous service upto August 15, 1947 or thereafter under Government or Semi-Government administrations in Pakistan. Government servants of

this category were absorbed in corresponding services under the State Government. Cases of those in temporary service were considered on basis of merit. Those who could produce physical fitness certificates were exempted from undergoing medical examination, except in certain services and posts. The prescribed age limit in the case of those who were found to be overage in subordinate services was relaxed, as a special case, in their favour, under certain conditions. Displaced persons on the rolls of Employment Exchanges and who were in permanent or temporary service under Government in Pakistan were given priority in recommendations for employment. Others enjoyed certain age concessions.

DISPLACED PERSONS FROM EAST PAKISTAN

As in West Pakistan, displaced persons from East Pakistan too have migrated in large numbers to India. The scope for rehabilitating them in the neighbouring regions of West Bengal, Assam and Bihar has reached the saturation point. Bombay has again risen to the occasion and made an offer of 80,000 acres of forest land in Chanda district in Vidarbha to enable those of the East Pakistan displaced persons who are willing to settle as agriculturists. A team of officials of the Revenue, Agricultural, Forest and Public Works Departments of the State Government is at present surveying the area to assess how much of the land offered is cultivable and how much uncultivable.

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION

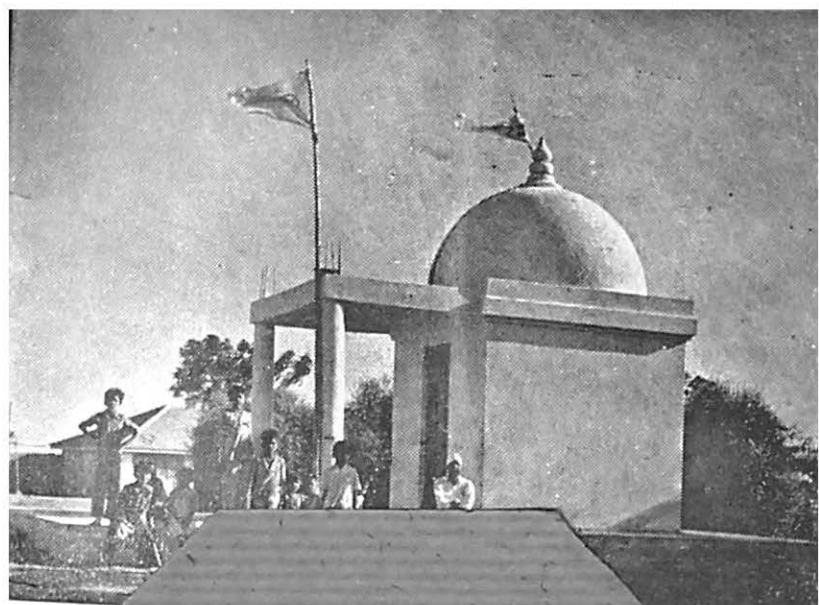
Many displaced persons per force left their properties in Pakistan and fled to India. Payment of compensation to them is the final stage of the rehabilitation programme. At the same time some people in India migrated to Pakistan. There are officers known as Custodians of Evacuee Property who look after the management of properties left in India. There are also officers known as Competent Officers for the administration of the Evacuee Interest (Separation) Act. Besides the Custodian of Evacuee Property, there are three Competent Officers — one each at Bombay, Ahmedabad and Rajkot, in Bombay State.

While there can be no differentiation between displaced persons in matters of relief and rehabilitation, differentiation becomes inevitable in payment of compensation. Those who have left their properties in Pakistan are termed "Claimants" and others "Non-claimants". Though some agreement could be reached with regard to movable property with Pakistan, negotiations in regard to immovable property proved infructuous. Six or seven years passed in this manner with no hope of amicable settlement. Without waiting further a compensation scheme was evolved and legislation known as the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act embodying the scheme was enacted in 1954. By virtue of this enactment Government acquired all evacuee properties and set up a Compensation Pool. The evacuee properties are valued at about Rs. 100 crores. To this has been added Rs. 85 crores representing the amount of loans and financial assistance in other forms advanced to displaced persons and the value of properties constructed for them by Government. The pool is to be utilised for compensating

the displaced "claimants" for the immovable property left by them in West Pakistan. One way of implementing the scheme would be to sell all the property, recover all loans and compensate the "claimants" in cash. A course as this would, however, dislocate the lives of displaced persons themselves — "claimants" and "non-claimants", as all Government constructed property and most of the evacuee property is in their possession. It has, therefore, been decided that those who are in occupation of houses or shops valued at Rs. 10,000 or less and of industrial concerns valued at Rs. 50,000 or less should be given an option to acquire them at reserve prices. The value of such properties would be adjusted against the compensation to be paid to "claimants" and against payment in cash in instalments by "non-claimant" occupants. This way "non-claimants" too can acquire a house, shop or a factory in India although they did not have any in Pakistan and at the same time the "claimants" would receive compensation for the property they left in Pakistan.

ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE

The rehabilitation of millions of displaced persons from Pakistan, who have migrated to our country, no doubt, has presented special problems but viewed broadly, it has to be regarded as an essential aspect of development of the economy of the country as a whole. The expansion of the national economy initiated under the two Five Year Plans by itself provides numerous opportunities for rehabilitation of displaced persons possessing initiative and enterprise. It is by the healthy and fruitful cooperation of displaced persons, the public and Government that the ultimate objective of rehabilitation, namely, providing a house to live in, economic security and becoming one with the new environment can be achieved and has been achieved to a large measure during the past ten years. .





सत्यमेव जयते

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