

## MIGRATION AND SOCIAL IMPACT: A REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Dr. Muhammad Rashid<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

*Partition of India marked the fierce controversy an end; but it also marked the beginning of what was literally an ordeal of fire and blood for its people. They were denied by the basic necessities of life, no food, no shelter and no securities for life. The award of the Punjab Boundary Commission caused much disappointment. This lengthy process involving patterns of settlement, institutional integration, commitment boards, building, ventures of joint council and governmental policies-that gave a semblance to streamline the controversial process of massive migration.*

*The nexus between the rich and powerful, the administration and the police was in a path regular in perspective of the gigantic stakes included. Regardless of whether it was the ripeness of law of the circumstance of the agrarian land to be designated or the area of the business properties, the energy of attentiveness that lay in the hands of the re allotment authorities provided for the entire exercise a questionable character. On the other hand the negligible patwari was maybe the most persuasive authority on the two sides of the outskirts. Broad dark promoting was accounted for in court understanding stamps and papers. The gigantic weight on the patwari who was relied upon to give the vital records of the land to empower designation and afterward to empower the allottees to take real ownership of the land could be better comprehended as far as the quantity of families that should have been distributed land. Muslim refugees from the East Punjab intermixed with the occupants of the West Punjab and those from the West Punjab and the West Punjab States with the moved individuals of East Punjab. This intermixing of the populace with each other prompted new social advancements. The evacuee's businesspeople extraordinarily expanded the course of merchandise even in the towns. Observing the horrors of migration they undoubtedly helped refugees to come out of their deteriorated states of minds. They helped them push out from the wells of dejection, sorrows and isolation not only morally but economically as well. They provided them with all the available resources and played a very appreciable role in the rehabilitation of refugees. But the post partition role of refugees in this regard is mixed and doubtful, since years they are still feeling the social mix as an avoidable phenomenon. They assume themselves as all time refugees. The shift from refugees to citizens in the society of Pakistan is craving to be treated vigorously.*

**Keywords:** South Asia, Migration, Impact,

### Introduction

If the problem of rehabilitation would be taken seriously, then everything as properties, shops, fields and houses were available which were sufficient for the rehabilitation of refugees and this task would have been finished with 2 or 3 years.<sup>2</sup> The leaders of that time made this noble cause a political one and in spite of rehabilitating the refugees, they started to use them for their own benefits. Partition brought increased opportunities for corruption. These were seized by civil servants who extracted graft, politicians who illegally appropriated evacuee property and members of local populations who enriched themselves at the expense of refugees. The post independence settlement of refugees and allotment of properties was the root of corruption in Pakistan.<sup>3</sup> Quaid-i-Azam addressed to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on 11 August 1947 said bribery and corruption is a poison, we must put that down with an iron and I hope that you will take adequate measures as soon as it is possible for this assembly to do so.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Pakistan Studies, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

<sup>2</sup> Sibte-Hassan, *Pakistan k Tahzibi wa Siyasi Misayal*. Karachi: Maktab-e-Danyal, 2002, pp. 201.

<sup>3</sup> Problems of Refugees in Pakistan, File No. Do 35/8958, TNA, UK, 1960 see also Refugee problem in India and Pakistan File No. DO 35/9001, TNA, UK, 1958.

<sup>4</sup> The Punjab, A Review of the First Year, August 1947, File No. A-79, Punjab Archives, Lahore, pp. 10.

In Pakistan, white collar crime started in the 1950s, from settlement of claims of refugees to industrial sanctions and allotment of agriculture land. All these were used as mechanics of moneymaking, giving rise to rampant corruption. Considerable amounts of this property were misappropriated in acts of individual, petty, political and gross corruption, for instance, according to one official estimate, around two million acres of abandoned agricultural land were ‘unauthorized held’ at the exodus of Hindus and Sikhs, and by 1960 more than three billion rupees worth of moveable goods had been ‘unearthed’ from the ‘usurpers’.<sup>5</sup>

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan, on the inaugurating the All-Pakistan Jinnah Memorial Debates vehemently condemned the lust for money to which some of the leaders of public opinion in Pakistan had fallen easy victims, he further stressed the importance of honesty and sincerity in the public life of Pakistan.<sup>6</sup> Sardar Abdul Qayum Khan Prime Minister NWFP in Pakistan now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said we must all strive to eradicate corruption, nepotism and other malpractices. There is no place for the slack, inefficient or corrupt officials in Pakistan.<sup>7</sup>

Although corruption in the distribution of evacuee property was pervasive throughout the towns and cities of Pakistan, the Central Record Office, in the Lahore Secretariat, was the epicenter. It was the site of refugees’ repeated anger, frustration, and disappointment. Refugees frequently protested outside over alleged corruption by officials. There was almost a riot, for example, on 1 July 1948, when an angry crowd of an estimated 5,000 refugees gathered on the Lower Mall road at the front of the Lahore Secretariat. Police used a *lathi* charge to disperse the refugees who were shouting angrily against the West Punjab government. In some places such as the district of Montgomery (present-day Sahiwal), refugees took out processions to raise their voices against the corruption of officials, in this instance the city magistrate. It was in Montgomery that a new organization was founded known as ‘Anjuman-e-Sada-e-Mazlooman’, with a view to raising refugee concerns against nepotism. In a resolution it urged the West Punjab government to stop nepotism in the allotment of evacuee property by appointing ‘pious’ officials.<sup>8</sup> The frustration of refugees was sometimes used by ‘radical’ groups to promote their brand of politics. For example, the Ahrars repeatedly accused the West Punjab government of Nawab Mamdot and his ministers of ‘jobbery, nepotism and holding them responsible for corruption and black-marketing’.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Chattha, Ilyas, “Competitions for Resources: Partition's Evacuee Property and the Sustenance of Corruption in Pakistan,” *Modern Asian Studies*, 2012, pp. 1184.

<sup>6</sup> “Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan Speech”, *The Civil & Military Gazette*, 18 January 1949, pp. 10.

<sup>7</sup> “Speech of Quaid-i-Azam”, *The Pakistan Times*, 28 August 1947, pp. 5.

<sup>8</sup> The Punjab Police Abstract of Intelligence, Week Ending 20 September 1947, pp. 468–469.

<sup>9</sup> “Refugees Problem”, *The Civil and Military Gazette*, 28 February 1948, pp. 3.

Redistribution of evacuee property played in the standardization of debasement in Pakistan. It highlights the plans of illicit assignment, misappropriation, and paints a completely persuading picture regarding the scramble for a large number of rupees worth of relinquished property in the towns and farmland of West Punjab. It demonstrates how government officials, administrators, effective neighborhood notables and venturesome outcast gatherings snatched properties, for the most part by paying off officers accused of dispensing them to approaching exiles, or by using their own contacts. The savage rivalry for assets and enticements for evacuee property empowered the development of a “debasement” talk which not just added to a climate that was impeding to democratic union in the early years of Pakistan's history, additionally defended later military intercession. This not just adds to the exact information of partition and its heritages, additionally makes a critical commitment towards our comprehension of the transitional state in Pakistan.<sup>10</sup>

According to the Secretary of the Pakistan Ministry of Refugees and Rehabilitation, more than 50 per cent of the abandoned houses and 36 per cent of the shops were illegally occupied by the ‘locals’ at the time of mass displacements of Hindus and Sikhs to India.<sup>11</sup> A review of the First Five-Year Plan of the West Punjab government commented that ‘out of 2,900 unregistered abandoned factories in the Punjab, 135 were found to be in unauthorized possession’.<sup>12</sup> Similarly, there were reports that over 1.8 million acres of land, in West Punjab alone, were illegally occupied by ‘local residents’. The competition for resources and temptations of evacuee property was not only detrimental to genuine refugee claims and generated conflict between refugees and locals, but also exposed the fissures between the Centre and the provinces. Corruption reports against eight gazette officers in which one Deputy Commissioner and seven other gazette officers were among the eighteen government servants against whom complaints of corruption was formally registered.<sup>13</sup>

In Sargodha district a notification was issued to eject the local person in district Khushab who occupied the evacuee property and also ordered to issue these evacuee properties to refugees. The following evacuee houses which were occupied by the

---

<sup>10</sup> Chattha, Ilyas, “Competitions for Resources: Partition's Evacuee Property and the Sustenance of Corruption in Pakistan,” *Modern Asian Studies*, 2012, pp. 1182.

<sup>11</sup> Pakistan Ministry of Refugees and Rehabilitation, File No. B.50, 20/CF/49, National Documentation Wing, Islamabad, 1949, pp. 8.

<sup>12</sup> Punjab: A Review of First Five-Years, 1947–1952, File E1-9, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1953, pp. 35-36.

<sup>13</sup> “Corruption reports against eight Gazette”, *The Civil & Military Gazette*, 25 January 1949, pp. 1.

locals had been allotted to refugees as noted against their names and further directed to submit report on the action taken by the S.H.O in a week's time.<sup>14</sup>

Table 1.1

*Evacuee Houses which were occupied by the Locals in Sargodha division*<sup>15</sup>

House No.	Owned by	Allotted to
1110/ Naushera, Khushab	Gopal Das	Muhammad Yusaf Shah, Govt. High School Naushera.
65/Naushera, Khushab	Amir Singh son of Mehr Singh	Sardar Ali Mohajir, Vernacular Teacher Govt. High School, Naushera.
978/Naushera, Khushab	Haim Paj Koda.	Muhammad Khan Malik, English Teacher Govt. High School, Maushera.

Source: office of the Settlement and Rehabilitation Office, Sargodha, 1974.

Mumtaz Daultana<sup>16</sup> was accused of being 'nepotistic'. He apparently allotted the 'biggest flour mill of the subcontinent' to his brother-in-law in Sargodha district, besides allotting a prized evacuee shop on the Mall Road and the Odeon Cinema, in Lahore.<sup>17</sup> During his period as Chief Minister from August 1947 to January 1949 Nawab Mamdot<sup>18</sup> had acquired an 'unenviable reputation for corruption involving the allotment of refugee property'.<sup>19</sup> The charges against Mamdot included the misuse of public office to personally acquire hundreds of acres of prime agricultural land at nominal rates in the district of Montgomery. He was also alleged to have awarded land to his followers and former tenants in order to keep his vote-bank intact. Mamdot was the focus of severe press criticism at the time for his handling of the refugee question. The Pakistan Times, owned by Mian Iftikharuddin, then the

<sup>14</sup> Notification No. 1319/SDM, dated 28 June, 1951 from Sub Divisional Magistrate to Deputy Commissioner Shahpur, District Sargodha, File No. 1 Delegation of Power, office of the Settlement and Rehabilitation, Sargodha, 1974.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Mian Mumtaz Daulatana (1916-1995) was a Punjabi government official who upheld the Pakistan Movement in British India, and was the second Chief Minister of West Punjab in Pakistan. Korson, J. Henry, ed. *Contemporary Problems of Pakistan*. Vol. 15. Brill Archive, 1974, pp. 14-19.

<sup>17</sup> "Allotment of flour Mill", *The Civil and Military Gazette*, 7 July 1950, pp. 3.

<sup>18</sup> Nawab Iftikhar Hussain Khan of Mamdot (1906-1969) was a Pakistani lawmaker from Punjab and a key supporter of the Pakistan Movement in British India. On 15 August 1947, he was selected as the first Chief Minister of West Punjab in Pakistan, Ikram, Sheikh Mohamad. *Indian Muslims and Partition of India*. Atlantic Publishers & Dist, 1995, pp. 279.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

Central Minister for Rehabilitation of Refugees, was at the forefront of exposing corruption scandals against the Nawab.<sup>20</sup>

On the other hand, due to these situation or Some 1,500 Muslim refugees from Chamba State applied to return to the State for reasons of health not being used to the heat of the plain. The application was sent to the government of India, which refused to allow them to return because they were alleged to be no room for them in Chamba which had taken in Muslims from other parts of India.<sup>21</sup> There were several cases of individual refugees returning or trying to return to their homes in the U.P. but the largest numbers of Muslims who had returned or tried to return to India had been failed. Utterly exaggerated statements were made by spokesmen of the government of India to the effect that thousands of Muslims had returned to India because of the treatment they experienced in Pakistan.<sup>22</sup> About 70,000 refugees registered their names to go back to India as they are worried that the government of Pakistan could not settle them.<sup>23</sup>

In Pakistan a special anti-corruption police force with federal responsibilities, the Pakistan Special Police, similar to the Indian Special Police Establishment, was set up in early 1948 by the then Interior Minister, Khwaja Shahabuddin.<sup>24</sup> On these issues of corruption or nepotism, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah address with the government officer in Chittagong: ‘Those days have gone when the country was ruled by the bureaucracy’.<sup>25</sup> And he reminded them that they now served in a ‘people’s government’, telling them: ‘You do not belong to the ruling class; you belong to the servants. Make the people feel that you are their servants and friends, maintain the highest standard of honour integrity, justice and fair play’.<sup>26</sup>

Officers like Additional Deputy Commissioners, Revenue Assistants, even *Tehsildars* and *Naib Tehsildars* were dealing with cases of bogus and fraudulent

<sup>20</sup> Ministry of Refugees and Rehabilitation, File No. 262/PMS/48 and 128/CF/48, National Documentaion Wings, Islamabd, 1948, pp. 36–37.

<sup>21</sup> Between 50,000 and 80,000 refugees had already crossed into India form East Pakistan, among them there were many young persons and infants, Pakistan Refugees, File No. FO 371/178272, TNA, UK, 1964.

<sup>22</sup> Constituent Assembly (Legislature) of Pakistan Debates, Monday 1 March 1948, File No. D-50 (3), Punjab Archives, 1948, pp. 697.

<sup>23</sup> Refugees in India, File No. DO 142/437 TNA, UK, 1948-1949 see also “Muhajir and Politics”, *Muhajir*, 17 November 1950, pp. 3.

<sup>24</sup> Gould, William, Taylor C. Sherman, and Sarah Ansari, “The Flux of the Matter: Loyalty, Corruption and the ‘Everyday State’ in the Post-Partition Government Services of India and Pakistan,” *Past & Present*, 2013, pp. 271.

<sup>25</sup> Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah Speeches as Governor General of Pakistan 1947-1948, Karachi: Sang-e-Meel Publications, 2006, pp. 94.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 95.

allotment and passing order but these powers were delegated to the Deputy Commissioners along as Deputy Settlement Commissioners (Lands). Cases of bogus and fraudulent allotments can only be enquired in the by the Chief Settlement Commissioner (Land) and no other officer was competent to deal with these cases.<sup>27</sup> There were a large number of unscrupulous persons who had secured allotment of evacuee land in the province on the basis of bogus claims and forged *Frade-haqqayat* with the result that the land intended for genuine refugees had been secured fraudulently by others.<sup>28</sup> A press note was issued warning all those persons, who have got allotments on the basis of interpolated or bogus claims or have got land more than what was actually due to them, to surrender voluntarily such allotments by 1 June 1955.<sup>29</sup> Moreover, Qari Amir Hussain, Colony Assistant / Chairman of *Tehsil* allotment committee Sargodha, was deciding cases pertaining to the Rehabilitation in the capacity of Assistant Settlement commissioner which beyond to his jurisdictions.<sup>30</sup>

The local officers were to give speedy attention to all complaints brought against the *Patwaris*. All *Patwaris* who had settled their members of families or relations in particular village were to be transferred immediately to circles in a different *Tehsil*. This principle was also to be followed in case of other revenue or rehabilitation staff like *Tehsildars*, *Naib Tehsildars*, and field *kanungoes*, i.e, such members of this staff as had the member of their families or relation rehabilitated in their *Tehsil* were to be transferred and posted to a different *Tehsil*.<sup>31</sup>

On the other hand the *Patwaris* did not have any record to show what was the total area abandoned by non-Muslims and what area has been allotted to the refugees. This didn't give any idea as to how much land was still available for allotment to the refugees.<sup>32</sup>

---

<sup>27</sup> Letter No. 4591-63/5361-R(L) dated 3 September, 1963 from the office of Chief Settlement and Rehabilitation Commissioner, West, Pakistan, Lahore to Colonization Officer, Thal Project Colony, Jauharabad. File No. 1, Delegation of Power, Office of the Settlement & Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974.

<sup>28</sup> Summary of the work in connection with resettlement of refugees on land in West Punjab XV, 1 July to 31 December 1955, File No. E-33-1, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1955, pp. 8.

<sup>29</sup> Summary of the work in connection with resettlement of refugees on land in the Punjab XIV, 1 January to 30 June 1955, File No. E-33, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1955, pp. 5.

<sup>30</sup> File No. 1, Delegation of Power, Office of the Settlement & Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974, pp. 294.

<sup>31</sup> Pakistan Punjab Refugee Council, Proceedings of the conference of West Punjab Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners on Rehabilitations held on the 22 & 23 June 1948, File No. No. 15462, Punjab Archives, Lahore, pp. 15-22.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.



1. The allotment orders were sometimes not traceable or sometime subsequent entries were found to have been made in them by the interested parties, for instance in the beginning many people obtained allotment orders for a large number of refugees when they in fact did not have those persons with them. Subsequently, to make up the deficiency they had to obtain other refugees and to regularize this they changed the allotment orders or made subsequent entries in them.
2. The refugees were found to have obtained not only an allotment of land but also shop, garden or factory, etc.
3. Families had been split up into small families of two or three persons in order to secure a large number of allotments. Families of people in service or business had been included in those living in the village in order to secure allotment of land for the former as well.
4. Sometimes one brother is found to have obtained allotment at one place for his own family and that of this brother, while the other brother is found to have obtained allotment of land at the other place for himself and for the family of the brother living at the former place.
5. The old Muslim tenants had not been provided for carefully. In some places no land was left for them with the result that they had had to be provided in other estates.
6. The *Patwari* didn't have any list with him to show the old tenants with the result that no checking was done without wasting a great deal of time in going through *Khasra Gridawari* and digging out the names of the old tenants.
7. Checking by the district or rehabilitation staff of the work done by the field staff was very negligible. In many places it was found that not even the field *Kanungos* had cared to check the allotments. The work of allotment had not been given as much seriousness as it deserved. The field staff dealt with this matter as if it was entrusted with the distribution of charities. It gave to whosoever it liked and howsoever it liked.
8. The exact number of the members of the families of the refugees and the fields allotted to them had not been given. On the other hand a group of members like 50 or 100 had been shown to have been allotted 50 or 100 *killas*.
9. It was found that the sphere of duties of the various officers was not quite clear. One officer of the same rank issues an allotment order and another officer of the similar rank issues a cancellation order. This creates confusion

among the refugees and devolves party faction when different allotments from different officers for the same land.<sup>33</sup>

It is further notice that many cases of rehabilitation were re-opened and after re-opening of such cases which were finalized years ago on one pretext or the other serves only to upset economic rehabilitation of the country and to increase the volume of settlement work un-necessarily at a stage when every effort must be directed towards speedy finalization of land settlement. In this context the Chief Settlement Commissioner had viewed with concern this tendency should be used only in glaring cases of fraud or miss-representation i.e. double allotments, impersonation or forged or bogus entitlements. Ordinary cases of miss-calculation of produce index units or wrong classification of soil and other errors of this nature should not be re-opened.<sup>34</sup>

It had been further notice that claimants who had filed bogus or exaggerated claims or obtained certificates from the Central Record Office, Lahore in respect of Rural Agricultural land, were exploring ways and means through the subordinate staff to remove files partially the forged documents, which were exhibited in their claim cases. To ensure the safety, this record was being kept under lock & key, under the Charge reliable persons.<sup>35</sup> It is further added that till 1960 the allotment of verified claim is still under process and Noor Muhammad submitted an application for the allotment of Agricultural land in Sargodha district, an area of 4,889 acres of evacuee land was available for allotment in Punjab till 30 January 1960.<sup>36</sup>

Complaints had been received that at the time of making allotments under the rehabilitation scheme, refugees were, in some cases, being ejected from lands temporarily allotted to them on the ground that their revenue records had not been

---

<sup>33</sup> Pakistan Punjab Refugee Council, Proceedings of the conference of West Punjab Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners on Rehabilitations held on the 22 & 23 June 1948, File No. No. 15462, Punjab Archives, Lahore, pp. 15-22.

<sup>34</sup> Order No. 1937/SO dated 20 January 1964 File No. 1, Delegation of Power, Office of the Settlement and Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974.

<sup>35</sup> Letter No. 16978-Admn-Reh/59, dated the, January, 1960 from Secretary Administration to All Commissioners of Divisions in West Pakistan, All Deputy Commissioners & Political Agents in West Pakistan Officer on Special duty, Central Record Office, Lahore, File No. 2, Instructions Files, Office of the Settlement & Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974 also interview with Makhdoom Shahbaz, District Court, Sargodha, 8 June 2016.

<sup>36</sup> Letter No. 1629-60-R from the office of the Chief Settlement and Rehabilitation on Commissioner, West Pakistan Lahore, dated March, 1960 to The Deputy Commissioner, Shahpur with the subject “ Allotment of urban agricultural land in lieu of verified rural claim-Application of Noor Muhammad and others of district Shahpur. File No. 2, Instructions Files, office of the Settlement and Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974.



received from the Indian Dominion.<sup>37</sup> The following is a case that was still pending on 1985 shows that the government machinery mismanaged the work in Sargodha division.

Table 2.1

*Pending Case of Transfer of House in Sargodha till 1985*<sup>38</sup>

Particulars	Remarks
Name/Particulars of Refugee	Karam Din son of Gujjar Khan through Faqir Muhammad, Attorney resident of Chak No. 136/SB, Versus 1. D.S.C Sargodha, 2. Sadar Din son of Mauj Din of Sillanwali. 3. Muhammad Shafi son of Masit Ullah deceased represented by Phool Muhammad of House No. 353 Silanwali
Property No.	House No. 318 Block No. 1, Sillanwali Tehsil and district Sargodha
Nature of Case	Transfer of House
Remarks	This Writ Petition has been remanded vide Hon'able High Court Lahore order dated 11.11.1985 for fresh decision after hearing the parties which has been fixed for 21.12.1985 and the concerned parties have been summoned.

Source: office of the Settlement and Rehabilitation Office, Sargodha, 1974.

Moreover, sometime clear demarcation of land is not made at the time of allotment, which leads to disputes and other complications<sup>39</sup> and these disputes and complications lead to further frustration among the newly came refugees. The Deputy Commissioner of Lahore said that certain shops had been allotted to locals whose shops was burnt in the disturbances, but the Rehabilitation Commissioner emphasized that the orders of the government were that no shop should be allotted to a local, even though his shop might burnt, if he had other means of livelihood.<sup>40</sup> The

<sup>37</sup> Letter No. 5219-R(L), dated 31 May, 1950, from Financial Commissioners, Punjab to Thal Development Officer, Mianwali with the subject of Provisional Permanent Resettlement of Refugees on land-refugees whose revenue records have not been received from the prescribed territory. File No. 5 Instructions file, Office of the Settlement and Rehabilitation, Sargodha, 1974.

<sup>38</sup> Till 1985 there were cases pending related to the settlement of the refugees in Sargodha division, Letter No. 1141-85/PS/MBR(R) from member Board of Revenue, Punjab to All the Additional Commissioners Revenue in Punjab & All the Additional Deputy Commissioners (General) in the Punjab with the subject of "Disposal of Pending Settlement Cases". File No. 3 Instructions File, office of the Settlement & Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974

<sup>39</sup> Letter No. 7010-R(L), dated 2 August 1950 from Punjab Resettlement & Colonies Department to the Thal Development Officer, Mianwali with the subject of "Rehabilitation Settlement of refugees on land demarcation of allotments on the spot". File No. 5, Instructions file, Office of the Settlement and Rehabilitation, Sargodha, 1974.

<sup>40</sup> Pakistan Punjab Refugee Council, Proceedings of the conference of West Punjab Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners on Rehabilitations held on the 17,18 & 19 February 1948, File No. 15461, Punjab Archives, Lahore, pp. 10.

following table is showing Judicial Settlement cases pending till 30.9.1986 in Sargodha.

Table 3.1

*Judicial Settlement Cases Pending till 30.09.1986.*<sup>41</sup>

Sr #	Particulars of the case.	No. of Property	Date of Decision	Date of Receipt	Writ No.
1	Abdul Hamid etc. Versus Nasir Ahmad	House No. 67 Block No. 19, Sargodha	12.1.85	13.1.85	60-Civil Appeal of 1983
2.	Barkat Versus Nawaz etc.	House No. 1- S-23-A Block No. 23, Sargodha	15.12.85	8.02.86	265-R 1985
3.	Ghulam Nabi (Deceased) through Abdul Hameed etc. Versus Nazar Mohd etc.	House No. 78 Block No. 3, Sargodha	10.12.86	18.12.86	47-R 1981
4.	Dibar Hussain Versus Kh. Muhammad Shafi	Shop No. 589- 590 of Bhalwal	24.08.86	31.03.86	LPA-411 of 1969
5.	Muhammad Shabbir vs Allah Ditta	House No. 129-128 Silanwali	27.10.85	18.11.85	1208-R of 1975

Source: Office of the Settlement and Rehabilitation Office, Sargodha, 1974.

There were also many difficulties faced by the local officer during the settlement of Refugees. There was no control over the refugees leaving the allotted land and going over to the camps. Both the entrance to and the exit from the camps were uncontrolled, with the result that there was a considerable floating population going from district to district, particularly from non-colony areas to the colony districts. The food situation in the refugees camps was also not satisfactory.<sup>42</sup> This was creating difficulties for the local officers and was undoing all the rehabilitation so far into the refugee camps should be restricted and nobody should be allowed to enter the camp unless he bears a certificate from any of the districts that he has not been rehabilitated in it. The best way of doing this would be that every refugee should

<sup>41</sup> Statement showing the pending Judicial cases in the court of Syed Tahir Ali Shah, additional deputy commissioner(general) / Deputy Settlement Commissioner / Deputy Administrator Sargodha received from the supreme court of Pakistan and Lahore high court, Lahore upto 30.06.1986, Letter No. 1699-C/HC(S), dated 23.10.86 from Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Deputy Administrator R.P Sargodha to The Commissioner, Sargodha division, Sargodha with the subject Judicial Settlement Cases pending Till 30.09.1986. File No. 3, Instructions File, office of the Settlement & Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974.

<sup>42</sup> Economic Situation in Pakistan, File No. DO 142/603, TNA, UK, 1949 see also Economic Situation (A), Mss Eur F158/517A, 1947-1968, The British Library, United Kingdom, 1947.

have an identity card on which any offers of rehabilitation, like land, shop, etc., made to the refugee should be entered, and any refugee who declines an offer of any of these items to which he is suited, should not be considered for resettlement in any other district. There should be an identity card for the inmates of the camps also, and the district staff will not offer rehabilitation to anybody who does not possess such a card from the camp.<sup>43</sup>

Difficulties were felt by local officers in verifying the claims of the refugees for allotment of land. There were a very large proportion of non-agriculturists, who pressed the local officers for an allotment, and in support they often bring letters or certificates from M.L.As of their district, but the certificates are found not to have been issued on sufficient grounds. The voter's list of East Punjab was helpful in the verification, but its copies were not available to local officers, and writing to Lahore always entailed a delay. There were, moreover, no voter's list available for the East Punjab States and quite a large number of refugees had come from there.<sup>44</sup>

Almost every local officer complained of housing accommodation in the villages. It was pointed out by them that while the non-Muslims had one or two families at the most per square. Now more than 3-5 families were being resettled on this area. There was thus obviously a shortage of house accommodation. The local officers thought that the refugees should be given taccavi for building houses as well; and, unless this was done, it was not possible to compel the refugees to leave the camps and go and settle in villages. It was pointed out by the Deputy Commissioner Sargodha, that the Buildings and Roads Branch was going to be opened in Shahpur for 50,000 souls. He proposed that these huts may be built in the various new *chaks* in the *Thal* area which was going to receive irrigation in near future.<sup>45</sup>

---

<sup>43</sup> It was noticed that the camp population of Montgomery had swollen from 40,000 in April, to over one lakh now. The Deputy Commissioner, Multan, similarly pointed out that the Ranghars were concentrating in his camp from all over the neighbouring districts, particularly Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan. He pointed out that there was some political colouring in this move also and the leaders of Ranghars were responsible for this. It was also mentioned by some local officers that the camp staff is generally hostile to the refugees leaving camps and settling on land. They carried on adverse propaganda against resettlement of refugees on land and hampered any efforts on the part of the local officers to disperse the camps. Pakistan Punjab Refugee Council, Proceedings of the conference of West Punjab Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners on Rehabilitations held on the 22 & 23 June 1948, File No. No. 15462, Punjab Archives, Lahore, pp. 1.

<sup>44</sup> At the moment there was no provision for punishing those who obtained allotment at more than one place or by fraudulent means. The conference strongly felt that some penal provision was most essential in order to check this evil practice. The local officers considered that quite a good bit of area may become available if those who had obtained bauble allotment surrendered it. The conference thought that an ordinance or an Act to check this practice may be helpful. Proceedings of the conference held on the 22 & 23 June 1948, pp. 2.

<sup>45</sup> Several local officers pointed out that the share of the produce that the refugees had been able to get, was not sufficient for their maintenance till the next Kharif crop was ready and it may be necessary for Government to sanction taccavi loans for food as well, Proceedings of the conference held on the 22 & 23 June 1948, pp. 3.

Government of Pakistan was doing everything for the economic rehabilitation of the refugees but nothing was being done for their moral and social rehabilitation. It was generally agreed that some sort of provision should be made for providing or running institutions like schools, *Madarisas*, or Mosques in rural areas. The state records of allotment were also very poor.<sup>46</sup> Efforts were being made to complete the work by the stipulated period. Due to shortage of staff in the Settlement Branch, the work could not be completed in time but many cases relating to Urban Properties were still pending.<sup>47</sup> These above definitely impacted by different components at social as well as individual levels.

### Conclusion

Muslim fought for independence and after getting their goal they wanted to have more food, more clothing, more houses, but so far as have to be disappointed. The present Punjab of Pakistan covers the 60 per cent of the total area of pre-partition Punjab. For these assets the Punjab had to pay a heavy price, its formal incorporation into the Independent State of Pakistan on 14 August 1947 marked the end a fierce controversy; but it also marked the beginning of what was literally and ordeal of fire and blood for its people. They were denied by the basic necessities of life, no food, no shelter and no securities for life. The award of the Punjab Boundary Commission caused much disappointment. While the Sikhs were blamed for the outrages in the East Punjab, the British were held responsible for having engineered the Sikh rising which resulted in the effusion of Muslim blood. The rioting which was previously confined largely to Lahore spread all over the province. The Khaksars, Ahrars and disgruntled Muslim Leaguers have been at hand to exploit the prevailing frustration of the Muslim community and efforts have been made to stir up the refugees against the government which is now in office.

The implantation of Muslim refugees at the root level i.e regional level was a lengthy process-involving patterns of settlement, institutional integration, commitment boards, building, ventures of joint council and governmental policies-that gave a semblance to streamline the controversial process of massive migration. In a reply to the cruelties of the Hindus and Sikhs, the Muslims of the West Pakistan also forced the non-Muslims to leave Pakistan. From the East Punjab the majority of the refugees to Sargodha belonged to Jullandar, Ambala, Ludhiana and district Karnal of Ambala Division and these Muslims majority areas affected more during the riots. Tracing the wave of disturbance in Sargodha division i.e. Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali and Bhakkar led the investigation of settlement of all the sects. Either it was the Muslim refugees from Eastern Punjab who were already miserable

---

<sup>46</sup> Pakistan Punjab Refugee Council, Proceedings of the conference of West Punjab Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners on Rehabilitations held on the 22 & 23 June 1948, File No. 15462, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1948, pp. 3-6.

<sup>47</sup> Letter No. 82/II.C(S), dated 3.6.86 from Additional Deputy Commissioner/General/ Deputy Administrator, R.P, Sargodha to The Secretary (Settlement) Board of Revenue, Punjab, Lahore with the subject "Auction of Residuary /Rural Urban Evacuee Property". File No. 3, Instructions file, office of the Settlement & Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974.

and seriously needed to be rescued or it was the case study of local Hindus and Sikhs morning on the pains of Radcliff award.

Drawings on the prediction of various researches if the problem of rehabilitation would be taken seriously, then everything as properties, shops, fields and houses were available which were sufficient for the rehabilitation of refugees and this task would have been finished with two or three years. Partition brought increased opportunities for corruption. These were seized by civil servants who extracted graft, politicians who illegally appropriated evacuee property, and members of local populations who enriched themselves at the expense of refugees. The post independence settlement of refugees and allotment of properties was the root of corruption in Pakistan. It highlighted the plans of illicit assignment, misappropriation, and paints a completely persuading picture regarding the scramble for a large number of rupees worth of relinquished property in the towns and farmland of West Punjab. More than 50 per cent of the abandoned houses and 36 per cent of the shops were illegally occupied by the 'locals' at the time of mass displacements of Hindus and Sikhs to India. In a nutshell while keeping into account of all the loot and massacre refugees were ultimately shunt into a new envisioned scheme to deprive them from a smooth well claimed settlement by the government officials as well as locals.