

Wednesday, September 27, 1972 THE ODessa AMERICAN 11B

Bangladesh Rehabilitation Pro

MOHAMMEDPUR, Bangla-deah (AP) — The government is assigning serial numbers to non-Bengali Moslems sequestered in refugee camps and asking them in questionnaires whether they want to remain in Bangladesh.

Foreign relief officials say they do not know the reasons behind the unpublicized move of Sheik Mujibur Rahman's government. Administration officials either refuse to discuss the situation or say there has been no change in government policy toward the non-Bengalis, or Biharis.

Officially the government

says the Biharis are welcome to leave the camps if they are willing to accept Bengali as their mother tongue and pledge allegiance to the Dacca government.

A foreign source said he was informed by government officials that plans were being made to introduce the Biharis, many of them skilled laborers, into the mainstream of Bangladesh life. He had asked the officials about six Biharis trained as engineers by his company and learned that they were in camps. There are reports from some areas that a few Biharis are returning to their jobs.

The source said he was told the government plans to put to work Biharis who want to stay in Bangladesh and exchange the rest for 400,000 Bengalis stranded in Pakistan. But nothing will be done for several months, he was told, because to act sooner would be politically risky.

The foreigner said the government's secret rehabilitation plan is to resettle the Biharis in low-resentment Bengali areas, avoiding places like Dacca where some Biharis collaborated with the Pakistan government.

If this is the government's

plan, the Biharis are not convinced.

Despair and uncertainty are apparent at the New Geneva colony, a camp established by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Mohammedpur, a Dacca suburb.

Bihari spokesman say anxiety is widespread about two questionnaires.

The first, distributed in most of the camps in early August, was called a "statement of non-locals" to be completed by all adult males.

This was superseded a month later by a seven-question paper under the heading: "Government of Bangladesh survey of Urdu-speaking nonlocals." This document asked if the Biharis wanted to live in Bangladesh and if not, the name of the country he or she wanted to go to.

Biharis received no explanation for the surveys and were told they would be punished if they gave false information. The questions dealt with family history and occupational skills.

The Biharis, Moslems like most Bengalis, flocked to camps by the tens of thousands during and after last December's India-Pakistan war that created Bangladesh in the former eastern wing of Pakistan. They feared Bengali reprisals.

Under the former Pakistani rulers, the best jobs and the best training went to the Biharis, a minority of fewer than 3 million in a land of 75 million.

Biharis migrated to East Pakistan in 1947 when the In-

WORRY CLINIC

By GEORGE W. CRANE, Ph.D., M.D.

CASE V-563: Diane D., aged 28, has a sex complex.

"Dr. Crane," she began, "I am an unmarried school teacher.

"But I have had many requests for dates.

"However, I shun men. "It all dates back to the fact that when I was 12 years old, I had an unfortunate experience with my grandfather.

"I had been very devoted to him but one night when my parents were gone and I was left alone with him, he sexually molested me.

have met attractive men who proposed.

"Secretly, I seem to look upon myself as a social outcast because of being involved in this case of incest with my grandfather."

Alas, many children are sexually molested before they get out of grammar school.

And incest is technically defined as sex relations with a close relative where marriage thereto is legally taboo.

the basis for this veto of

Abraham also married his half sister.

And Lot cohabited with his two daughters, thus fathering their children.

Jacob also married his first cousins, a type of wedding prohibited in many states of the U.S.A. even today.

Incest is really opposed because such inbreeding often has produced handicapped children.

So eugenics was an underlying reason for the veto of incestuous matings.

However, inbreeding also

ogram Also Creating Doubts

dian subcontinent was partitioned, opting for the Islamic government in preference to the Hindu-dominated government of India. Most speak Urdu like the Punjabi majority in West Pakistan, but many young Biharis were born in East Pakistan, speak Bengali and were educated in Bengali-language schools.

Various Biharis who talk with visitors to the camps say their lives in Bangladesh are ir-

retrievable and they want to migrate to Pakistan.

The conditions in which they live continue to be a festering sore on the independence of Bangladesh, although in truth their caged lives are easier than those of many Bengalis. The Red Cross and other relief agencies provide food, while outside the camps millions of Bengalis scrape for subsistence.

The government also is housing the Biharis, but at New Geneva, a community of 32,000

created when the government expropriated a Bihari school where the refugees had huddled for six months, the stench is abominable. Garbage piles and drinking water share an area of 40 square feet.

The Biharis claim 40 to 50 people share each hut of 375 square feet.

Tanks supplied by the Red Cross provide running water and crude latrines. But the Biharis cannot forget the fences. As an American newsman walked around the compound a

woman brought forward a crying child whose head was bleeding. She said the child had been hit by a brick tossed over the fence from outside.

A disgusted Bengali civil servant said such occurrences are commonplace.

"For too long we were told that Biharis were bad and we should do whatever we could to make them pay for their collaboration," the young Bengali said. "Now I'm afraid throwing bricks has become a part of our culture."