

# Bangladesh to Take Part In Talks on Repatriation

From News Dispatches

NEW DELHI, Aug 29—India and Pakistan have agreed that the repatriation of some 400,000 people stranded in the Subcontinent since the war of December, 1971, will start as soon as possible.

It was also disclosed that Bangladesh will take part in the complicated exchange, rather than being represented by India, as had hitherto been the case.

Details of the agreement signed here last night and released today confirmed that there would be a three-way exchange of some 90,000 Pakistani prisoners of war, about 260,000 Bengalis still in Pakistan, and a "substantial num-

ber" of non-Bengalis in Bangladesh—the so-called Biharis.

Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh said the schedule for the completion of repatriation of these three categories of persons will be worked out by India in consultation with Bangladesh and Pakistan.

In a statement to Parliament, he also confirmed that the agreement calls for direct negotiations between Pakistan and Bangladesh on the question of how many of the Biharis, will be permitted to enter Pakistan.

Bangladesh has made it clear that it will participate in

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such a meeting only on the basis of sovereign equality, Singh said, indicating that the Pakistan negotiators had agreed to recognize the new republic which, until the war, was its eastern wing.

Singh said 195 Pakistani prisoners of war which Bangladesh had wanted to try for war crimes will remain in India and no trials will take place during the entire period of repatriation.

He said it was agreed that Bangladesh, India and Pakistan will arrive at a settlement of the question of these 195 prisoners of war.

Political sources said the Bengalis in Pakistan would probably be taken by ship from Karachi to the Bangladesh port of Chittagong. The

pro-Pakistani Biharis in Bangladesh would sail from Chittagong to Karachi.

The sources said New Delhi officials would probably send the POWs by train from camps in India to the Pakistani border.

The whole procedure is expected to take six months.

The agreement was expected to pave the way for early admission of Bangladesh to the United Nations.

China, a close ally of Pakistan, vetoed a Bangladesh application for membership last year, but was expected to go along now.

Of all the people covered by the repatriation agreement, the Biharis of Bangladesh are literally people without a country.

Originally immigrants from India's Bihar state, the Mos-

lem Biharis who left India are scorned by Indians, unwanted by Pakistan and hated in Bangladesh.

Biharis are hated by Bengalis because they sided with the loser in the 1971 war. Bengalis claim many Biharis committed atrocities against them during the war.

Many Biharis fled the country when the Pakistani army surrendered. No one knows for sure how many remain in Bangladesh, but estimates range up to a million and a half.

The Bengali hatred for the Biharis goes deep. Although staunch Moslems like most of the Bengalis, the Biharis never tried to assimilate themselves into the Bengali lifestyle after the 1947 partitioning that created Moslem East Pakistan.