

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 2nd December, 1970/
the 11th Agrahayana, 1892 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DEVELOPMENT OF JHUGGI COLONIES IN DELHI

*438. SHRI K. C. PANDA : †
SHRI M. K. MOHTA :
DR. B. N. ANTANI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any funds have been released by the Central Government to the Delhi Administration for development of colonies around about Delhi to shift the Juggi-dwellers and if no funds have been released, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what are the impediments to the grant of ownership rights to the Juggi-dwellers on the lands occupied by them in the Juggi-colonies, and what ameliorative measures are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH) : (a) Rs. 62.50 lakhs have been released to the Delhi Administration so far during the current financial year.

(b) Government are considering a proposal to give plots to Juggi-dwellers in Juggi-colonies on a 30 years renewable lease basis.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : It appears that Juggi-dwellers are being shifted to places more than ten miles away from the area where they have constructed small huts. As a result of this they have to travel ten miles or more for attending to their duties and thus they are in great difficulty and are getting less wages for the number of hours that they work. So I want to know what

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. C. Panda.

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action the Government proposes taking to accommodate them in the places where they have constructed small hutments and jhuggis. That is number one. Number two. There are instances in Delhi when the jhuggi-dwellers, who are earning their livelihood in small huts by putting up *pan* shops or tea-shops or grocery shops, are displaced from their places, they are assured by the Government that *pucca* stalls will be constructed and they will be given on rent. But in practice what is happening is such stalls are being auctioned by the Government at a very high cost and only the rich people are taking them away and the poor people for whom actually they are constructed, are deprived of the *pucca* stalls in spite of the assurance given to them. Ultimately all those jhuggi-dwellers who are displaced and who do not get *pucca* stalls are remaining unemployed because they cannot pay the auction money which runs into hundreds and thousands of rupees. In these circumstances, I would like to know what action the Government is taking to accommodate these poorer classes.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Such a lengthy supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He was the first questioner. That is why I allowed some latitude to the first question.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Regarding his first question about the resettlement of the jhuggi-dwellers, under the present scheme all those pre-July, 1960 jhuggi-dwellers were shifted to places, as far as possible, nearer to the central localities and plots of about 25 sq. yds. have been given to them on a rental basis and those squatters who started after July, 1960 are being shifted to the periphery of Delhi and they are also being given plots of 25 sq. yds.

The matter has been discussed on several occasions and on the last occasion also when this matter was taken up in the Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament attached to this Ministry, we have more or less felt that it is a fact that if the jhuggi-dwellers are shifted to far off places, it affects their livelihood and normally they again start squatting near about the same place and that is why we have decided that plots should be given on lease basis, not on rental basis, as far as possible nearer to the central localities. There is another scheme also which has been suggested by the Delhi Administration.

and that is whether the Government could consider resettling all these jhuggi-dwellers in a multi-storeyed building at the site where these jhuggi-dwellers are now squatting. This matter has also been considered and we have asked the DDA to work out a pilot project so that the economics of the whole thing could be gone into and the feasibility of the scheme also could be considered after the pilot project is taken up.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : May I ask the hon. Minister as to what is the extent of the problem of jhuggi-jhonpri-dwellers, how many such people are there and how many of them would be able to get tenements with the aid of Rs. 62 lakhs which the hon. Minister has mentioned? To me it seems to be a pitifully small sum that the DDA has sanctioned. For group housing scheme crores of rupees are sanctioned, but when it comes to jhuggi-jhonpri dwellers, only Rs. 62 lakhs are available. I would like to know whether it is not a fact that the Lt. Governor has written, according to his own statement, over 20 letters to the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Health Minister without any result? What would be the total financial commitment if all the jhuggi-dwellers have to be properly housed and over what period of time it could be done?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Originally the Delhi Administration wanted about Rs. 120 lakhs for this scheme. The Government of India sanctioned about Rs. 90 lakhs against these Rs. 120 lakhs. In the month of January, the Delhi Administration itself came forward that they would not be requiring Rs. 120 lakhs and they would be happy if Rs. 80 lakhs would be available to them. In spite of that, the Government of India maintained the figure of Rs. 90 lakhs which they originally sanctioned. Therefore the question of inadequate funds provided for the purpose is not correct. The Delhi Administration has come forward with a proposal that the original sanction of Rs. 120 lakhs should be maintained. We have gone into the expenditure so far incurred in the last six months and it has been found out that on an average about Rs. 7 lakhs have been spent on these schemes by the DDA. With that tempo of work it appeared to us that the amount should exceed the sum allotted and it should be possible to do the work within the budget provision already made.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : What about the second part of my question?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : The total expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 9.78 crores.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : What I wanted to know was what portion of the problem would be solved by the present allocation and who much you need to house all the jhuggi-dwellers. What portion of the problem will be taken care of by the present sum?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Originally it was estimated that there would be one lakh of jhuggi-dwellers in Delhi. Of that about 50,000 started squatting before 1960 and 50,000 started squatting after 1960. A decision was taken that 50,000 people who started squatting before 1960 should be settled in one manner and those who squatted after 1960 should be settled in a different manner. On that basis an estimate was prepared and the scheme was also prepared. Today the position is that the exact number is not known because we found that most of the jhuggi-dwellers who were settled have again started squatting. On this basis it is very difficult to ascertain what exactly is the magnitude or dimension of the problem.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : The hon. senior Minister has been very liberal in quoting figures. He quoted a very high figure whereas the junior Minister has been honest enough . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : I shall be very brief. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not have said that he was honest, etc. That is not the language you should use.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : For twenty years the condition of the slum-dwellers and jhuggi-dwellers has been such that the late lamented Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, emotional as he was, once said that he would burn all these things in order to make. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question? You see there are other hon. Members also to ask questions.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : I can ask my question bluntly. But those who are monopolies give a long preface and they are allowed to do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask your question.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : I desire to ask the Government whose avowed policy is socialism whether it does not consider it regrettable that the condition of the Jhuggi-dwellers in the Capital of the country should remain as it is after 20 years. One of the reasons why Statehood is not given to Delhi is . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no question of Statehood in this. That does not arise here.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : Sir, then I will not ask.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether you ask or not, your supplementary should arise from this question.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : Then, let me say bluntly. The question is that the figure that the Central Government has given is so poor. Does it not consider it so poor? If need be, will the Government of India increase the central aid in order to see that this problem is solved?

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Thank you very much. Yes please, Mr. Minister.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that the question of Jhuggi-dwellers still remains and persists in the Capital city of Delhi. It is our endeavour to see that the settlement should be made as quickly as possible and in as best a way as possible. That is why we have considered a number of schemes and there is no question that it is because of the inadequacy of the funds that the schemes are not being implemented. Sir, the point is what is the best solution for this. We have tried a number of solutions and they did not work so well. Even now we are considering and that is why we say, "Let there be a pilot project", so that the jhuggi-dwellers could be re-settled at the site of squatting itself. That is why we have asked the DDA to prepare a pilot project.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Mr. Mani.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, the hon. Minister said just now that the Jhuggi-dwellers are being given the option of taking it on a 20-year lease basis. May I ask him whether it has occurred to him that it is ridiculous to offer these terms to the Jhuggi-dwellers, particularly when the favoured classes like the Government servants and the Members of Parliament are getting plots of land on a free-hold basis?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Nobody is getting land on a free-hold basis.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Why does it offer on a lease basis? Why can't it be on a permanent basis?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Sir, number one, nobody in Delhi has been offered land on a free-hold basis. It is all on a lease-hold basis. Secondly, originally when the scheme was started, it was offered on a 99% lease basis and on a 50% subsidized price. Sir, this scheme did not work because we have found that those people who are given land transfer it and sell it and then again they start squatting on this plot. That is why it has been thought that instead of giving them a permanent right, it should be on a rental basis. Now, the point arises here whether it should be on a renewable basis. They did not take care of their lands. That is why we are now thinking of a 30-year renewable lease, with a right to have permanent structures thereon so that the plots cannot be transferred and all these things will be there and we think this will work well.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chavda. This is the last question. We have taken fourteen minutes.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, this is a question concerning Delhi. At least someone knowing something about Delhi should be allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are others also.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : But those who have got knowledge of Delhi should be allowed, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have taken fourteen minutes over one question.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, those who know about the facts of Delhi. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Chavda.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : Sir, there are Jhuggis. . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want it to be discussed, you can have. . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : No, Sir. We can go to the main question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, please.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, अगर वे चाहें तो आप एलाउ करेंगे ?

श्री सभापति : हमने सबके लिए कहा है ।

श्री राजनारायण : हमारे लिए कह दो चेयरमैन से ।

श्री सभापति : अगर आप काम करने से रोकते हैं . . .

श्री राजनारायण : हम तो पूछना चाहते हैं ।

श्री सभापति : उनके लिए से मेरा मतलब है, सारे हाऊस के लिए ।

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : Sir, there are Jhuggis on private land which is near Subzi Mandi in Delhi and the land-owner is also willing to give the land to the Jhuggi-dwellers. But they are not in a position to purchase the land. May I know whether the Government intends to purchase or acquire the land and give it to the Jhuggi-dwellers to construct their own houses?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : The 'jhuggi' scheme concerns only the squatters who are squatting on Government land. If it is a matter between the private parties and 'jhuggiwalas', they have themselves to sort it out.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : You have removed them. They have no money . . .

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, मेरा एक प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर है । क्या इस स्तर पर मंत्री किसी वस्तुस्थिति को छिपा कर उत्तर दे सकता है । हमारे पास जानकारी है कि प्रधान मंत्री साहिबा ने अपनी 22 बीघा 12 बिस्वा जमीन और आस-पास की जमीन को लेने की एक योजना बनायी है और झुग्गी झोंपड़ी को वहां पर बसाया जायेगा । यह उत्तर माननीय मंत्री जी ने क्यों नहीं दिया ? आप उनको कहें कि वे इस को स्पष्ट करें।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

STATELESS PEOPLE IN CEYLON

*439. SHRI ARJUN ARORA : †

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

DR. SALIG. RAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that four lakh people will become Stateless after India and Ceylon have fulfilled their treaty obligations; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The Indo-Ceylon Agreement of 1964 provides for the conferment of citizenship on 8,25,000 persons and their natural increase. Approximately 1,50,000 persons and their natural increase will be left Stateless after the successful implementation of the Agreement.

(b) It is too early at this stage to initiate any proposals for the solution of this question. The Indo-Ceylon Agreement of 1964 provides that the status and future of such persons would be the subject matter of separate discussions between the two Governments at an opportune time.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Arjun Arora.