

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): (a) to (c) No such proposal is at present under the consideration of Government. But an Expert Committee, appointed by Government is studying the question of low cost housing including the establishment of factories for the adoption of pre-fabrication and mechanisation. The other points raised in the Question are therefore pre-mature.

INDIAN OIL CORPORATION

522. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:

SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he advised the management of Indian Oil Corporation to withdraw charge-sheet against leading office bearers of Indian Oil Workers Union, Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether the advice was accepted by the I.O.C. management; and

(c) if no action has been taken by I.O.C. management, what is the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SELLING OF L.I.C. SHARES

523. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON:

SHRI MANORANJAN ROY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Life Insurance Corporation has recently sold about 35,000 shares of

the National Rayon Corporation to Bombay Burmah Petrol Ltd. at price allegedly well below the face-value of the shares; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government of India propose to order an enquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) and (b) The L.I.C. sold 35,285 5.55 per cent Cumulative Preference shares of the National Rayon Corporation Ltd. of the face value of Rs. 100 each through a broker at Rs. 100 per share. The then market price was Rs. 66 only.

The allegation that the shares were sold at prices below their face value was made in an article appearing in the Economic & Political Weekly dated 20-12-1969 under the title "LIC as Santa Claus". The allegation was incorrect and was refuted by the LIC in a letter to the Editor of the Weekly. Government do not therefore propose to order an enquiry in the matter.

COLLAPSE OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTED BY HINDUSTAN HOUSING FACTORY

524. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON:

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that defective cement was used in the construction of Sangam Park Site Building by the Hindustan Housing Factory, as a result of which the building collapsed;

(b) whether a technical committee went into the reasons for the collapse of the building; and

(c) if so, whether Government will be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a report containing the full findings of the technical committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY):

(a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Technical Committee had reached the conclusion that wind was primarily the cause of failure of the block. They further reported that it was also possible that due to wind one of the guy wires of the derrick placed in the end bay of the block gave way at the anchorage or at the point of its connection with the derrick leading to the fall of derrick. The derrick while falling down might have hit some of the members of the block leading to the total collapse of the frame work.

For future safeguards against such incidents the Committee made the following recommendations:

1. The single pin joint between columns and beams used in the construction should be replaced by a more rigid joint.

2. The sequence of erection should be so planned as to ensure stability of the framework during erection. To enable this it is recommended that tower cranes should be used instead of derricks. As long as cranes are not available, temporary bracings joining columns should be used during erection. Further, the framework and cross walls of first two storeys should be completed before the erection work on the remaining two storeys is taken up.

3. The design of the frames should be in accordance with the extent of rigidity that is likely to be produced in the joints by the particular system of jointing used.

4. Since the concrete produced by the Factory is required to have very high strengths, it is necessary to introduce a proper method of rigorous quality control to ensure that the strengths aimed at are actually achieved and maintained during the entire production.

5. At the end of every day's work it should be the responsibility of the Engineer at the site to see that work is not suspended at such a stage as would leave the frame unstable.

DIAMOND MINING IN ANDHRA PRADESH

525. SHRI SANDA NARAYAN-APPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey Team has submitted its report to Government regarding diamond mining at Vajra Karoor in Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) if so, what are the main features of the report.

(c) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation has taken up the work; and

(d) if so, when it was taken up and what are the results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGAN-NATH RAO): (a) The exploration by the Geological Survey of India to evaluate the diamond bearing areas in Vajra Karoor in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh is in progress. Their report will be prepared on completion of the investigation.

(b) does not arise.

(c) and (d) The National Mineral Development Corporation has taken up a preliminary appraisal of the diamond deposits in Vajra Karoor area. The work was taken in hand in August, 1968. The geological reconnaissance study of Vajra Karoor pipe and surrounding areas has been completed and the first exploratory pit as a part of the stream bed investigation has been put down. A washing-cum-screening plant has also been commissioned. Till the end of January, 1970, 11 diamonds weighing 9.135 carats have been recovered.