

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: May I know if this Sindri Fertiliser Expansion Project has been handed over to the Simon Carves Ltd. of U.K. and has the Government made all enquiries about the capacity of Simon Carves Ltd. to undertake this because they have bungled in the Durgapur Steel project and still some difficulties are there in the execution of that project? May I know whether the Government have taken sufficient care by going into the capacity of Simon Carves to handle this project?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMIAH: When they entered into the agreement in 1965 the Government was quite satisfied with the *bona fides* of the company.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: It is well known that the world itself is in severe shortage of sulphur. Therefore there is a new technique of applying ammonia directly to the soil and thereby we can save the enormous amounts which we are spending on importation of sulphur. I would like to know whether the method of application of ammonia direct to the soil in place of ammonium sulphate has been investigated and if any work has been undertaken in this regard. I myself had suggested this after having visited the Sindri Fertiliser factory and having discussed with the experts who told me that there was the possibility of using ammonia direct and I want to know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to this aspect of the question.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: The hon. Member's own State, Mysore, is keenly interested in it. We have made a certain amount of ammonia available to that State and the State is carrying out an experiment. I would like to point out that it requires special kind of equipment and a great deal of care has to be taken. This kind of direct application can be done only over a large stretch of area at a time and not in isolated lots as happens in our country. The Mysore

Government has however come forward and we are co-operating with them.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Sir, the Estimates Committee has reported that the higher cost of ammonia produced in the Sindri Fertiliser factory is due among other factors to the faulty equipment used. Has any step been taken to remove the imbalance and to improve the equipment?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: The Sindri fertiliser plant, as the hon. Member knows, was set up about 15 or 17 years back. Therefore we are now engaged in a two-fold development programme, one is to correct the gas balance there and secondly there is a remodernisation scheme. Both the schemes are going ahead and I am confident that after both the schemes are put through the production there will improve.

GUEST HOUSES OF PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

*185. SHRI ARJUN ARORA:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the public sector undertakings which maintain guest houses in Delhi;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon the (i) rent of building; (ii) staff salaries; (iii) maintenance; and (iv) other expenses on each account during the year 1966-67; and

(c) the total occupancy of each of these guest houses by (i) the employees of the undertakings; and (ii) others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) According to available information, the follow-

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

ing enterprises are maintaining guest houses in Delhi:—

1. Life Insurance Corporation.
2. Hindustan Steel Ltd.
3. National Coal Development Corporation Ltd.
4. Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.
5. Oil and Natural Gas Commission.
6. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
7. Air India.
8. Hindustan Copper Ltd.
9. National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd.
10. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.
11. Garden Reach Workshops Ltd. and Mazagon Dock Ltd.—Sharing a guest house.
12. Heavy Electricals (India) Ltd. and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.—Sharing a guest house.
13. Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. and Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd.—Sharing a guest house.

The information regarding the latest position in this respect as also the details sought in parts (b) and (c) of the Question is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the attention of the Government has been drawn to the recommendation by the Committee on Public Undertakings recently disavowing the continuance of separate guest houses for each public undertaking and recommending a pooled guest house for all of them and if the Government's attention has been drawn to this recommendation, may I now what action has been taken in the matter?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, as a matter of fact the Estimates Committee in its Fiftieth Report also made a similar recommendation and the Government accepted this recommendation and subsequently the public enterprises were requested that as far as possible the pooling of guest house accommodation should be attempted and the facilities provided by Government should be availed of. Also the taking of new guest houses and extension of the leases of existing guest houses should be done only with Government approval and the question of closing guest houses with low occupancy ratio should be immediately considered.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: It is good that the Government issued certain instructions after the Estimates Committee made their recommendations. May I know if any of the public undertakings have actually followed the instructions of the Government or they have chosen to ignore them, because it appears that in spite of Government's instructions to the contrary, separate guest houses are being maintained by most of the undertakings, costing enormous sums. May I know why the Government has not pulled them up and seen to it that they follow the instructions which the Government has correctly issued?

SHRI K. C. PANT: If the information we have collected reveals that Government's instructions are not being followed, certainly we shall take necessary action next.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know whether the Central Government and State Government employees are also permitted to use these guest houses maintained by the public sector undertakings or they are only being used by the officials of the public sector undertakings? If not, why are these guest houses not being allowed to be used by other Central Government employees when they remain vacant?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I cannot answer that categorically, but I presume that the Central and State Government officers, who go to these undertakings, would certainly be accommodated in these guest houses.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: It is a known fact that every year in the Budget allocations the Finance Ministry has to grant loans and advances to the tune of several crores of rupees to these public sector undertakings on the ground that they are not doing well. Now, in view of this fact, will the hon. Minister assure this House that, for the purpose of causing savings to the exchequer, the Finance Ministry will immediately see to it that these public sector undertakings do not incur unnecessary expenditure in the matter of maintaining these guest houses, particularly in view of the fact that the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings have opined against the maintenance of separate guest houses by these public sector undertakings.

SHRI K. C. PANT: It is always the function of the Finance Ministry to prevent any unnecessary expenditure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhandari.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: The hon. Finance Minister has not answered my question. My question was whether he will see to it that the public sector undertakings do not maintain a separate guest house, but he has given a vague reply saying that he will always see that unnecessary expenditure is not incurred.

SHRI K. C. PANT: He asked whether the Finance Ministry will see to it that unnecessary expenditure is not incurred on such and such thing and I said it is our function to see that unnecessary expenditure is not incurred.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, I seek your protection. Will you kindly refer to the record? My specific question was whether the hon. Finance Minister would see to it that

such expenditure on these separate guest houses was not incurred, not about the general expenditure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He gives an assurance. Mr. Bhandari.

SHRI K. C. PANT: A specific assurance cannot be given.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : मेरा निवेदन है कि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के संस्थान राज्यों में भी हैं और प्रत्येक राज्य के यहां पर गेस्ट हाउसेज बने हुए हैं। क्या वित्त मंत्रालय की तरफ से इस बात की आग्रहपूर्वक जांच की जायेगी कि ऐसे सभी सार्वजनिक संस्थानों के अधिकारी, अपने अपने राज्यों के गेस्ट हाउसेज में ही ठहरे और कहीं अलग व्यवस्था करना अनिवार्य न हो ?

दूसरा यह कि इन सारे गेस्ट हाउसेज में जो कभी कभी यहां पर लोग आ जाते हैं उन्हीं के टहरने की व्यवस्था है या जो स्थायी तौर पर हैडक्वार्टर्स के नाते अधिकारी रहते हैं उनको भी एज पार्ट आफ देयर इमालूमेन्ट या और किसी नाम पर इन गेस्ट हाउसेज में स्थायी तौर पर रहने की इजाजत दी गई है, इसकी जांच आपने की है या नहीं ?

श्री के० सी० पन्त : जहां तक दूसरे सवाल का संबंध है, उसकी जांच तो मैंने नहीं की।

जहां तक पहले सवाल का संबंध है, मैंने पहले भी कहा कि वहां सरकार के मकान हैं, गेस्ट हाउसेज हैं, आवास की सुविधायें हैं, पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग्स को कोशिश करनी चाहिए कि उन जगहों में अलग से अपने लिए मकान और आवास की सुविधाएं न बनाएं।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : पहले सवाल में आप नीति क्या अपनाएंगे। अगर ऐसे लोग रहते हैं जो गेस्ट हाउस का स्थायी तौर पर उपयोग करते हैं तो उनके बारे में आपकी क्या नीति होगी ?

श्री के० सी० पन्त : स्यायी तौर पर
उनको नहीं रहना चाहिए, नति का बात
तो साफ है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Banka
Behary Das.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow
a number of people to put questions.
I must get on with my business and
time is running out.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: The
public sector undertakings are behav-
ing like big Zamindars and Maharajas.
They want to have their guest houses
in different places and I know that
some of these public sector undertak-
ings are having guest houses in New
Delhi, Madras, Bombay and Calcutta.
Though the Estimates Committee has
already recommended against the
maintenance of such guest houses
four years back, may I know from the
Minister why some of these public
sector undertakings have taken guest
houses on rent from private persons?
Is it possible for the Finance Minister
immediately to advise those public
sector undertakings not to have guest
houses on rent, but utilise other guest
houses for the time being, as long as
the 'pool' system is not brought into
existence?

SHRI K. C. PANT: We have called
for this particular piece of informa-
tion also, as to which of them are
renting guest houses. The Finance
Ministry has not shirked anything. I
have already indicated how we have
requested the various public sector
undertakings to take certain steps. It
should also be appreciated that we
should not arrive at any conclusion
before the information comes in. Sup-
pose any public sector undertaking
requires a guest house and suppose
it occupies the guest house for 25 days
out of 30 days, it depends on the occu-
pancy rate, etc. It is quite possible
that because of the heavy work that
they have to do in Delhi some of the
public sector undertakings may need
guest houses.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: The
Committee's Report is against it.

SHRI K. C. PANT: It would be
premature to come to such a decision
with regard to each and every public
enterprise, but the broad policy that
we are following I have already in-
dicated.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNED BY TARUN
PRESS OF CALCUTTA

*186. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE:†
SHRI ARJUN ARORA:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tarun Press of
Calcutta has earned any foreign ex-
change during the last 5 years; and

(b) if so, the amount thereof and
the countries from which it was earn-
ed?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI
MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) Exchange
Control records, which show itemized
information only for amounts in ex-
cess of Rs. 10,000, do not disclose any
foreign exchange earnings by the
Tarun Press of Calcutta.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I
know if the Minister is aware of the
fact that this agency is engaged in
propaganda on behalf of certain
organisations and agencies in West
Germany and West Berlin? The
fact that they even distribute litera-
ture printed in West Berlin has also
been brought to the notice of the
Government in the past. May I
know if the Government will care to
enquire whether they are doing this
service to the West German and West
Berlin agencies gratis or they are ac-
cepting payment for that and if they

†The question was actually asked
on the floor of the House by Shri
A. P. Chatterjee.