

new procedure the Council has laid it down, and which the Visitor has accepted, that no applications will be invited. The Selection Committee on its own will survey the field in India and invite whomsoever they consider suitable. The Selection Committee has stated that it considered all the Professors in the Institute as well as certain outsiders and considered this particular gentleman, Dr Dhawan, to be the most suitable.

*283 [The questioner (Shri P. K. Kumaran) was absent For answer, vide col. 2164 infra.]

DIGGING OF TRENCHES, ETC.

*284. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of digging trenches and building air-shelters is still going on; and

(b) what has been the cost of these activities so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R M HAJARNAVIS): (a) No. The State Governments have since been advised that, for the present, digging of trenches and construction of air raid shelters should not be undertaken.

(b) Full information is not available. But a number of States have reported that no expenditure has been incurred by them.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ Sir, I did not hear the second part of the reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No expenditure has been incurred.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I know from the hon Minister, when he said that no expenditure has been incurred, whether all these trenches and shelters have been built by the people voluntarily or they have come up by themselves on the roads?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The State Governments have informed us, some of the State Governments of course, that they have not spent almost any

amount on the digging of trenches. It was done voluntarily.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: For instance, taking the Delhi State, trenches have been dug and shelters have been made. May I know how much money the Delhi State has spent on these, and may I also know whether the specification for these shelters and trenches was laid down after reference to experts in the Army in the field or whether any authority was consulted for building these things? When I say authority, have the Army personnel got knowledge of these things?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The question is not quite clear to me. But there were certain instructions about the size and the kind of trenches to be dug. It is not an absolutely new thing to be done in this country; it was done before also. Definite instructions were issued and on the basis of those instructions these trenches were dug with the help of the local people living in those areas. I did not quite follow what the other question was.

MR CHAIRMAN: He wanted to know about expert consultation.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Regarding consultation with Army officers, well, when we issued instructions, there were general consultations, but no definite consultation as to what kind of trenches would be dug, was called for because we had enough information with us

SHRI A M TARIQ May I know whether he has got information with him as to whether the trenches and shelters which were made in the area of Delhi and New Delhi were made voluntarily or were given on contracts? If they were given on contracts, may I know how much money was spent and what procedure was adopted for inviting tenders?

MR CHAIRMAN: I think the answer has been given, that they have not spent any money.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: My question is not regarding the States. It is re-

garding the Delhi Administration which is directly under the Home Ministry. I am asking about Delhi and New Delhi and not about other States.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: So far as Delhi is concerned, the hon. Member's information is partly correct. I do not think much was done with that. Some help of the people was taken but it was done through the Delhi Administration. Regarding what amount was spent, I have not got that information.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that in most of the States no other civil defence work was done besides the digging of trenches?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: No, Sir. Many things were done. In fact, plans were not only made but part of them was executed also. The cities were divided into zones, wardens were appointed, and various instructions were issued. Besides that, enrolment of Home Guards also took place. Training in first aid and rescue operations was also given.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know if it is not a fact that following the digging of trenches in Delhi on a contract basis, a number of write-ups and even pictures appeared in the local newspapers about the whole mismanagement and wastage involved in this whole affair? May I know whether the Home Ministry ordered an investigation on the basis of these allegations and charges which were made in the newspapers?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It was not necessary. Whenever you take up a new thing, generally people are inclined to criticise and also condemn it. When the situation completely changed in the country or on the frontier, the people started criticising. Otherwise there was generally a very good response from the people. People did want that some such action should be taken, but when the cease-fire was declared, then many people started their criticisms, and I

do not think they were perfectly justified in that.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The hon. Minister said just now that instructions were given, in answer to a question by our friend, Mr. Tariq. I should like to get that point cleared a little more satisfactorily. Who gave the instructions? And I want to put a specific question to him: Did the Army authorities request the Home Ministry to be ready with air raid precautions or did the Home Ministry anticipate the army judgment on this matter when they asked that these trenches should be dug?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I am sorry the hon. Member's question is not very relevant. Whether we consulted the Army or not is not a matter to be discussed here. As it is, the Home Ministry is in charge of the civil administration of the country, and we are responsible for making adequate arrangements for the protection of the civil population. The hon. Member is more aware perhaps than myself what the situation was at that time, and in that context it was essential that some action should be taken for the civil defence of the country. We are even now going ahead with some items, and of course we made it clear later on, as early as it was possible, that the digging of trenches and black-out should be stopped, but other items of work of the programme should certainly be put through.

شی عید الغلی : کیا ہوم منسٹر

صاحب بتائیں گے کہ ان کے علم میں پرائم منسٹر صاحب کا یہ اسٹیٹمنٹ آیا ہے کہ یہ روپیہ جو خرچ ہو رہا ہے یہ بوسیدہ سوچ وچار کے تحت ہو رہا ہے اور یہ بالکل فائز ہو رہا ہے اور کیا ہوم منسٹر صاحب یہ بھی بتائیں گے کہ ان کے اس اسٹیٹمنٹ کے بعد پھر بھی کوئی روپیہ اس کام پر خرچ کیا گیا ہے اور کیا گیا ہے تو کیوں کیا گیا ہے -

†[श्री अब्दुल गनी : क्या होम मिनिस्टर साहब बतायेंगे कि उनके इल्म में प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब का यह स्टेटमेंट आया है कि यह रुपया जो खर्च हो रहा है यह बोमीदा सोच विचार के तहत हो रहा है और यह बिल्कुल जाया हो रहा है और क्या होम मिनिस्टर साहब यह भी बतायेंगे कि उनके इस स्टेटमेंट के बाद फिर भी कोई रुपया इस काम पर खर्च किया गया है और किया गया है तो क्यों किया गया है ?]

श्री लाल बहादुर : जी हां, प्राइम मिनिस्टर के स्टेटमेंट के बाद हमने स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को हिदायत भेजी कि इस काम को इस वक्त रोक दिया जाय। पहले जो कुछ खर्च हो चुका था वह खर्च हो चुका था। जहां तक मुझे मालूम है, क्योंकि उनका प्रोग्राम वगैरा मारा पहले बन चुका था, इसलिये फौरन ही तो वह काम नहीं बन्द हुआ, लेकिन बहुत जल्दी हमारी जब हिदायत गई उसके बाद वह बन्द कर दिया गया।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, one question should be clearly answered, and that is, whether in Delhi the whole thing was undertaken on a purely contract basis and whether those who were responsible for carrying out this contract were given proper instructions as to the kind of trenches that were required. I had lived in England during the early years of the War and I know what trenches are. I would like to know . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought your question was already complete.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The question will be further enlightened by that. Therefore, I would like to know who gave that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is for finding out facts.

† [] Hindi transliteration.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You are right, Sir. I say, my question will add to the enlightening of the remark so that the Minister can give an enlightening answer. I would like to know who gave these instructions and who looked after these things. Have they had any experience of digging trenches or ideas as to what the trenches should be like?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Well, instructions were issued by the Delhi Administration. And, of course, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has often visited England and other foreign countries. I have not had the fortune to do so. But may I inform . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You have visited Nepal recently.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I went; I found nothing foreign in Nepal. But may I add that the Inspector-General of Civil Defence of the United Kingdom, who was here, has fully supported the digging of trenches and practising black-outs, etc.? But what he has added is that our plan should be kept ready and prepared and at the appropriate time necessary instructions might be issued and then the trenches might be actually dug and black-outs might be declared or practised.

REPORT ON NEYVELI LIGNITE AND SALEM IRON ORE

*285. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the team of observers which recently went to East Germany, Norway and West Germany to watch the tests being carried out on Neyveli lignite and Salem Iron Ore has submitted its report; and

(b) if so what are the main recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM): (a) Yes, Sir.