

and cinnamon through the State Trading Corporation; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Betelnuts and cinnamon are speculative items and imported betelnuts and cinnamon were sold at high profit margins. A decision was, therefore, taken to canalise the imports of these items through the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.

VACATION OF ROOMS IN SCINDIA HOUSE, DELHI BY D.D.A.

42. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some rooms recently vacated by the Delhi Development Authority in Scindia House, Delhi were allotted by Government to an international society; and

(b) whether this society is a Government-aided institution?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION (SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA): (a) and (b) Presumably the reference is to the premises vacated by the Land and Development Officer whose office was shifted to the Exhibition Grounds on the 2nd February, 1963. It is the declared policy of this Ministry that all

those premises which were either requisitioned or taken on lease many years ago, should be gradually released. The premises in the Scindia House were taken on lease on the 1st October, 1936. After the premises have been released, this Ministry is no longer concerned with their allotments.

ALLOTMENT OF HOUSES TO CENTRAL GOVT. EMPLOYEES IN NEW DELHI

43. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to the allotment of Government houses to Central Government employees in New Delhi;

(b) the year of priority up to which houses have been allotted to the employees in each category; and

(c) what steps are being taken to give houses to the maximum number of employees within the minimum period of their service?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION (SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA): (a) Only 37 per cent of the Central Government employees in Delhi eligible for allotment from the general pool could be provided with residential accommodation.

(b) The year of priority that has been covered up to the end of July 1963 in the different categories is as follows:—

Pay Range	Type	Dates covered
Below Rs. 110/-	I	November, 1948.
From Rs. 110—249	II	December, 1944.
„ Rs. 250— 99	III	July, 1954.
„ Rs. 400—699	IV	June 1954.

Pay Range	Type	Dates covered
From Rs. 700—1299 . . .	V	January, 1951.
„ Rs. 1300—2249 . . .	VI	April, 1948.
„ Rs. 2250—and above . . .	VII	January, 1951.

(e) More and more constructions are being planned, and at present 4366 units of accommodation are in various stages of construction.

FIRE INCIDENTS IN THE CENTRAL SECRETARIAT BUILDING

44. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire incidents in the Central Secretariat Building, New Delhi, during the last six months;

(b) the amount of loss due to these incidents;

(c) whether Government have held any inquiry to find out the causes of the fires and if so, what are the causes; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION (SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA): (a) 17.

(b) Approximate loss in 6 cases comes to Rs. 190. In 8 cases, there was no loss and for the remaining cases the loss has not yet been estimated.

(c) Yes. In some cases, fire was caused by electrical short circuits. The other cases are still under investigation.

(d) The question of taking preventive measures is under examination.

IMPORT LICENCES GRANTED TO S.T.C.

45. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the Minister of INTERNATIONAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of import licences granted to the State Trading Corporation during the year 1962-63; and

(b) the number of such import licences which were transferred by the State Trading Corporation to private importers for execution?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) 2271. Out of these 2115 import licences were operated through the agencies of private importers with whom the S.T.C. entered into business contracts as its agents for the contracts.

VILLAGES ELECTRIFIED DURING FIRST TWO YEARS OF THIRD FIVE YEAR PLAN

46. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of villages electrified in first two years of the Third Five Year Plan; and

(b) what was the target in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is attached.