

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 21th August, 1963/the 5th Bhadra, 1885 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**HOUSES BUILT BY I.A.S. OFFICERS in J. & K. STATE**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some I.A.S* Officers posted in Jammu and Kashmir have built houses in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the number of such officers and whether any permission of the Central Government was token for building such houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS): (a) Yes.

(b) Ten.

Under statutory ruleSj the State Governments are competent to grant permission to build houses to All-India Service officers of their cadres, serving in connection with their affairs. Therefore, the question of grant of permission by the Central Government does not arise.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I know if the Government has made any survey with regard to the cost of the houses and the money spent on these houses and, if so, whether it was found where-from this money came? These I.A.S. officers have been taken in service for the last three ypars or so and I think they have constructed these houses beyond their limitations. If that is so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

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SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: Sir, the latter part of the question with regard to the cost of the nouses which they have constructed, whether it wai within their means or not, does not arise out of this question at all. So far as the Central Government is concerned, we merely advance loans to the State Governments in order to enable them to advance moneys for the construction of houses to their own officers.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: My question it this: Is it not the duty of the Government to find out the facts and to mak» enquiries into the matter, especially when an officer drawing a salary of Rs. 700 or Rs. 800 builds within two and a half years a house worth two and a half lakhs of rupees? According to the rules, loans cannot be more than Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 15,000. Is it not the duty of the Government to find out wherefrom that money came?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Sir, it is a different matter altogether. Government servants can build houses if they have got some money with them. These officers have been in service for a long time. They were taken in tho I.A.S. cadre a few years before but they have been in service for a much longer period. Besides that, Sir, they get loans from the Government of India. The Government of India haj given about Rs. 5 lakhs in 1961-62 and another Rs. 5 lakhs in 1962-63 and then Rs. 2-112 lakhs during this year. So, with the help of these loans they can build houses. But if the hon. Member has any complaint to make against any officer that the house built is exceedingly costly much above the amount which he could have earned himself plus the loans, then it would be a case of corruption. For that a complaint can be made and the matte? investigated into.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I know if the Government has received any information that a few of these officers, more than two or three, have built more than three houses in three years? They have built a house in Srinagar, I a house in Jammu and a house bet-

ween Jammu and Srinagar. If that is so, may I know whether any enquiry has been made?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I cannot answer it in a general way. He has to specify names. As I said, if they have got very big assets and if it casts any doubt on the integrity and honesty of the officer, we will certainly look into it. But the complaint should come in that way specifically charging that this officer has got assets beyond his means. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I know from the hon. Home Minister—I have got great personal respect and regard for him—whether he did receive some complaints from some political organisations or some individuals or some Assembly Members with reference to these houses, when he was on tour to Jammu?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Sir, I had gone there some time back—I do not exactly remember it. I am afraid Mr. Tariq will have to invite me to Kashmir again.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know whether these I.A.S. officers are required to submit an annual statement of the property acquired by them under the rules made by the Home Ministry and, if so, whether these officers have submitted their annual statements?

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: Sir, this hardly arises out of this question.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: It does. Sir, I want your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point is that if you had received the statements, then you would have known how many officers . . .

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Sir, the rule says:

"No member of the Service shall, except with the previous knowledge of the Government, acquire or dispose of any immova-

ble property by lease, mortgage, purchase, sale, gift or otherwise either in his own name or in the name of any member of his family."

It also says 'acquire'. And then there is a proviso. So, Sir, the rule is quite clear. Every officer, whenever he adds to his assets, has to furnish the necessary information to the Government.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: My question is whether these officers have submitted their annual statements or not.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: They must have; they must have observed the rules.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Sir, it is not a question of 'must have'. The question is whether they have actually done that

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: May I say, Sir, that it is not the Central Government whose approval has to be sought under the rules? It is the State Government which gives permission. If the hon. Member so desires, further enquiry can be made from the State-Government.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, is there any rule in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules under which a Government servant, who builds or acquires a house, will have to declare the value of the house for purposes of record? If there is no such rule, does the Government propose to introduce such a rule?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Sir, I do not know the details. I do not know whether any such specific provision is there in the rules. But Government have many other means to find out what roughly the cost or the value of the building built by the Government servant would be. And if there is any doubt in that regard, we can certainly make an enquiry and ask him to explain and furnish the particulars with regard to the actual amount spent.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know if these ten officers, who are said to have constructed houses in Jammu and Kashmir, are residents of Jammu and Kashmir or they are outsiders. I would also like to know if the outsiders serving there can also acquire properties under the present set of rules.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Well, Sir, we do not prevent any officer, even if he is an outsider, to build a house in Jammu and Kashmir, if he so desires. I know at least of one officer who has done it but most of these officers, I think, belong to Jammu and Kashmir.

*241. [The questioner (Shri Bhupesh Gupta) was absent For answer, vide cols 1622-23 infra.]

FERTILIZER PROJECTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

*242 SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of fertilizer projects in the private sector have not made any progress;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to take over these projects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on *the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The following are the fertilizer projects which had been licensed/approved for establishment in the private sector:

- (1) Visakhapatnam
- (2) Kothagudem
- (3) Madhya Pradesh
- (4) Hanumangarh
- (5) Tuticorin
- (6) Mangalore
- (7) Durgapur
- (8) Gujarat

Of these, those at Kothagudem, Visakhapatnam and Gujarat have made some progress. The licencees of the projects at Hanumangarh, Tuticorin and Mangalore have not yet submitted their final proposals in regard to their projects.

The licensee for Madhya Pradesh project was not able to implement the project and has surrendered the licence. The West Bengal Government in whose name the licence for the Durgapur project was issued had recently intimated that they are not able to implement the project due to shortage of raw materials and difficulties in regard to foreign collaboration.

The question of Government of India taking over any project which is given up by the private sector does not arise. Government of India have, however, decided to establish a fertilizer project in Madhya Pradesh and have entrusted the work to the Fertilizer Corporation of India. Government are also examining the question of establishing a project for meeting the fertilizer requirements of West Bengal.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: From the Statement it appears that out of the eight projects licensed only three have shown some progress. Out of the other five some have surrendered their licence and others have not even taken the licence. From this it is clear that the target that was expected to be realised during the Third Plan will not be reached. Has the Government any other plan to raise the production of fertilizers?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Yes, Sir. The inference drawn by the hon. Member is correct, that we would not be able to reach the Third Plan target with regard to the production of fertilizer; but we are trying to take up as many projects as possible in the public sector. However, the capacity of the Fertilizer Corporation is limited, I mean its capacity to take up many more projects. Still to the extent that it is possible, we are trying to take up more projects. As the House already