

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question has already been replied to.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: May I know the estimate with regard to this project, Sir?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: Sir, the estimate is about Rs. 25,39,000 odd.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: May I know whether the Constitution House is going to be pulled down in the present situation of emergency, Sir?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: As regards the Constitution House too, Sir, we are having second thoughts in the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

GOVERNMENT BUNGALOWS TO NON-OFFICIALS

•313. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: • Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state whether Government bungalows have been given on rent to non-officials and other non-entitled persons in Delhi, if so, what is the number thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. S. NASKAR): About 150 houses are occupied by persons who are not eligible for accommodation from the General Pool.

شری اے۔ ایم۔ طارق: میں اس سلسلہ میں یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ جو تعداد وزیر صاحب نے فرمائی ہے کہ اتنے لوگ جن کا جنرل پول سے کوئی تعلق نہیں ہے وہ ان مکانوں میں دیتے ہیں تو جب حکومت کو اتنی دقت ہے کہ وزیروں تک کو مکان نہیں ملتے ہیں ممبر آف پارلیمنٹ

تو درکنار تب باہر کے لوگوں کو جن کا سرکار سے کوئی تعلق نہیں ہے - وکالی مکان کرایہ پر کیوں دیا جاتا ہے ؟

†[شری اے۔ ایم۔ طارق: میں اس سلسلے میں یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ جو تاداد وزیر صاحب نے فرمائی ہے کہ اتنے لوگ جن کا جنرل پول سے کوئی تعلق نہیں ہے، وہ ان مکانوں میں رہتے ہیں تو جب حکومت کو اتنی دقت ہے کہ وزیروں تک کو مکان نہیں ملتے ہیں، ممبر آف پارلیامینٹ تو درکنار، تب باہر کے لوگوں کو جن کا سرکار سے کوئی تعلق نہیں ہے سرکاری مکان کرایہ پر کیوں دیا جاتا ہے ؟]

شری مہر چند خننا: وہ کسی زمانے میں دیا گیا ہے۔ میں ماننا ہی نہیں کرتا ہوں کہ جس کے جواب میں وزیر صاحب نے فرمایا کہ کس زمانے میں دئے گئے۔

شری اے۔ ایم۔ طارق: یہ سوال نہیں ہے کہ جس کے جواب میں وزیر صاحب نے فرمایا کہ کس زمانے میں دئے گئے۔

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It is not a matter of individual Minister's policy, Sir. I would like to know what the Government is doing in regard to this matter. I would like to know whether Government are having any rule according to which Government can give Government accommodation to a private individual. Is there any such policy or not?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, there have been certain circumstances in which exceptions have been made. Some of these houses are with Embassies and some others are with certain organisations like the Bharat Sewak Samaj, etc. But at the time when these exceptions were made, Sir, the circumstances of each case would have been taken into consideration.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Sir, my point is not with regard to Embassies or the Bharat Sewak Samaj or any such organisation. I am referring to businessmen, traders or private individuals. What is the number of houses with private individuals who do some trade in them and what is the rent being charged for them and also, Sir, what are they paying by way of repairs?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, out of these 150 houses a certain number of houses are with persons; not organisations or Embassies—maybe about 30, 40 or 50, I am talking from memory. Rent is charged according to the formula contained in section 45A and section 45B. In some cases it is charged according to section 45A and in some others it is charged according to 45B. In certain other cases a very nominal rent is being charged.

SHRI PANNALAL SARAOGI: Sir, there are certain flats in Vinay Marg which are not accepted by Members of Parliament and which remain unoccupied. If those flats which are not accepted by any Member of Parliament are given under section 45B, I do not think any harm is going to be done to anybody.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what you think; that is not a question.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Is it a fact that there is a policy of the Government to give houses to leaders of political parties who may not be Members of Parliament as also to ex-Cabinet Ministers and, if so, in whose cases the rule has been waived?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, for leaders of political parties I cannot say anything from memory. But if there are any cases, particular cases brought to my notice, I shall certainly have them looked into. What is the other part of the question, Sir?

SHRI A. D. MANI: About ex-Cabinet Ministers. As a matter of rule are they allowed housing accommodation in bungalows?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: One ex-Cabinet Minister is a Member of Parliament. He has been allotted, a house as a Member of Parliament. There are some others too—I believe there are two others—who are not Members of Parliament but still allotment has been made in their cases. But I can assure the House, Sir, that I am looking into each case.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know if in every one of these cases where exception has been made the order was passed personally by the Minister of Housing and Supply?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I have no idea, Sir. Since I took over I have not passed a single order, this is my impression.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know how many senior officers of the Government of India have not (been provided with Government accommodation, Sir, for the last ten years. In other words, Sir, I would like to know how many applications for allotment of houses—from Government officers of various grades—are still in pendency.

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, the total requirement of the general pool is about 90,000 units. We have only been able to provide 30,000 units. So, the remaining 60,000 officers are without accommodation. I am of course talking from memory only. As regards the other question, Sir, if there is any particular case, I shall certainly have it looked into.

SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY: May I know whether the President of the All-India Congress Committee is occupying a flat like that and also the ex-Defence Minister is occupying a bungalow?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: As far as the President of the All-India Congress Committee is concerned, it is within my knowledge that he has got a house from the general pool. It is on the Asoka Road. As regards the ex-Defence Minister Sir, I think according to the rule, when a Minister resigns or goes, he can live in that house for 15 days. Now the ex-Defence Minister also happens to be a Member of Parliament and he is equally entitled to accommodation as a Member of Parliament.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of high government officials who having retired from government service, have joined some private firms and are still occupying government accommodation

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I cannot state their number off-hand. But there are some who have been reemployed.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: I am not talking of those employed *by* the Government, but of those whom private firms have employed. These retired officers still occupy government accommodation. What is their number, I want to know.

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I cannot answer it off-hand. If any particular case is brought to my notice, I shall certainly look into it.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Thank you.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: May I ask whether the Government is aware that even lady Members of Parliament are not getting proper accommodation in spite of repeated requests?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I have every sympathy for the lady

Members of Parliament, but may I submit that I do not make any allotments to any Members of Parliament, man or woman, and that is done by the Housing Committees on which there is, I think, Mr. Tankha from the Rajya Sabha and Mr. Krishnamoorthy Rao from the Lok Sabha.

SHRI SATYACHARAN: In view of the discussion that has transpired on the floor of the House, may I urge upon the hon. Minister of Housing that he may make a thorough enquiry into all the government accommodation so far provided and see that only those who are eligible are allowed to remain in such accommodation?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: The question is not very clear to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion he has made.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Who chooses the members of the Housing Committees? The hon. Minister just now referred to the Housing Committees and said that houses are allotted by them. But who appoints these Committees, the hon. Minister, Parliament, the Prime Minister or do the members of the Committee appoint themselves?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: These Committees are appointed, in the Lok Sabha by the Speaker and in the Rajya Sabha, I presume, by the Chairman. The Minister has no hand in making this appointment and he is not a member of any one of these Committees.

IMPORT OF CHICORY

*314. SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether chicory has been taken out of the list of imports termed as restricted;

(b) what is the expenditure in terms of foreign exchange incurred on the free import of chicory;