

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 23rd April, 1962/the 3rd
Vaisakha, 1884 (Saka)

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

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Shiva Nand (Himachal Pra-
desh).

Shri M. M. S. Siddhu (Uttar Pra-
desh).

Shri M. P. Shukla (Uttar Pra-
desh).

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

STUDIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE ORGANISA- TION AND METHODS UNIT

*18. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will
the Minister of Works, Housing and
Supply be pleased to refer to para

03 of the brief notes on the activities
of his Ministry for 1961-62 and state:

(a) what studies were undertaken
by the Organisation and Methods
Unit during the year 1961;

(b) how often licensed premises are
inspected; and

(c) how many lectures were
arranged for police officers in 1961
and at what places?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUS-
ING AND SUPPLY (SHRI MEHR CHAND
KHANNA): (a) A statement showing
the important studies undertaken
during 1961 is placed on the Table of
the House.

(b) Licensed premises are inspect-
ed at intervals of one to three years.
Major installations are inspected more
frequently.

(c) 34 courses of lectures were
delivered to Police officers at Phillaur,
Calcutta, Patna, Lucknow, Hyderabad,
Vellore, Mount Abu, Kishangarh,
Hazaribagh, Barrackpore, Nasik,
Mysore, Trivandrum, Sagar, Angul,
Cuttack, Moradabad and Agra.

STATEMENT

Subject matter of study	Position
1. Records Management	The study revealed that old records which had become ripe for weeding, had cluttered up the Record Room of the Ministry thus also resulting in congestion in the Sections because of the encroachment caused on the working space by accumulation of old records which could not be transferred to the Record Room. Accordingly a programme for weeding of old records was drawn up and monthly targets were fixed in respect of various Sections. It was thus possible to destroy about 25,000 old files during the year.
2. Indexing of files	A review of the prevalent practice revealed that it involved avoidable waste of effort and stationery. It has now been decided that index slips should be prepared at the time of recording of files and restricted to such files as are recorded for more than 5 years.
3. Meetings, group discussions, etc.	A review of the meetings, group discussions etc., held in the Ministry during a quarter showed that the prevalent practice

Subject matter of study	Position
	was satisfactory. The meetings were held when necessary, to secure expedition, to resolve disputed points or conflicting views, to secure coordination, to review progress, etc., The practice adopted in respect of issue of notice/agenda, invitation of officers of appropriate level, preparation and issue of minutes, was generally satisfactory.
4. Vigilance cases—progressing of	It was found that the Control mechanisms prescribed by the O. & M. Division and the Administrative Vigilance Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs, involved some overlapping. The O. & M. Division were accordingly requested to exclude such type of cases from the purview of the O. & M. Control mechanism to avoid duplication.
5. Pilot Sections	A study of the working of the two pilot Sections in the Ministry indicated that the work handled in these sections was not of a type for which detailed rules, regulations or precedents did not exist, that is to say, which had not been routinised, or which was of a specialised nature requiring more deliberate and thorough attention by experienced staff not lower in rank than a Section Officer at the very initial stage of examination. It was consequently decided to convert these sections into normal type Sections.
6. Other Sections	A study of some other sections in the Ministry resulted in a reduction in the strength of those Sections. Study of some more Sections is in hand.
7. Periodical reports and returns	A review of the periodical reports and returns has been taken up with a view to simplification. Some returns could perhaps be dispensed with others combined, and the periodicity reduced in respect of some of them. The study is in hand.

Some case studies particularly in respect of delayed cases, were also taken up.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, who constitute the O. & M. Units in the various Ministries?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: It is done by the Government of India—the Ministry of Finance.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the O. & M. Units have taken up the study of the working of the Directorate of Estates?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I might just correct my first reply, Sir. That is constituted by the Prime Minister's Secretariat, not by the Ministry of Finance.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether this Unit has undertaken the study of the working of the Directorate of Estates?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Not to my knowledge, Sir.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the Ministry follows any regular system of inspecting the licensed premises under the Explosives Departments?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Yes, Sir; we have got a very big organisation with its headquarters at Nagpur. There are Inspectors all over and they make frequent inspections. In

fact, Sir, very recently, I think, a Deputy Chief Inspector has also been appointed.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the hon. Minister can throw some light on how explosions and accidents occur from place to place, when these licensed premises are inspected from time to time?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I have taken charge, Sir, only recently, and nothing has happened during my time as yet.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: What has been the result of these studies? Are they meant for economy or efficiency or for both? What has been the result of these studies during the last two or three years?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: The main idea of studies has been that in this Department we deal with explosives. We have so many items to deal with under the Indian Explosive Act, 1884, the Petroleum Act, 1934, and so on and so forth. The idea is to see that these premises are properly licensed and inspected and these explosions are avoided as far as possible.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: May I just make a slight correction, Sir? He said that the Prime Minister's Secretariat was responsible for that. That was not quite correct, although I told him that. It is the Cabinet Secretariat that is responsible and the Prime Minister in that sense is connected with it.

SUB-SOIL WATER LEVEL IN NEW DELHI

*19. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any appreciable results have been noticed in checking the rise of sub-soil water level in New Delhi; and

(b) what further steps are being taken in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA): (a) The results can be judged only after all the tube-wells sunk for this purpose have been in operation for about three years.

(b) This does not arise at present.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the sub-soil water—its level—is still rising, and whether it is proposed to pump out water at several places?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, we have so far sunk 303 tube-wells. Only 48 are in operation. As for the remaining tube-wells, Sir, there has been some difficulty in getting connections from the N.D.M.C. and the D.M.C. I have looked into this matter—during the last week—and, as far as I am concerned, I have been assured by these technical experts only this morning that we should be able to get these connections by the end of June and we should start pumping water through these 303 tube-wells some time about the middle of July, 1962 i.e. after about two months. We hope that after these pumps get into operation in full swing, we should be able to maintain the water level, say, about 10 feet during the monsoons and about 14 feet after the monsoons. But it is only an experimental stage and it is, therefore, difficult to make any specific statement.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know what the causes are for this rise in the level of sub-soil water in Delhi?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, an important committee was appointed, I believe, under the presidency of one of our colleagues. They went into this matter three or four years ago, and they produced a report. There are so many causes—unfiltered water supply, drainage, choking of drains, etc. And I think the necessary information was laid on the Table of the House then.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if there are any plans to utilise the