

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, to what use the existing municipal building is going to be put?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: That is for the Municipal Corporation to decide.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether it is not possible to extend the present municipal building which is in the centre of the city, and which may be a good building for the new Municipal Corporation to conduct their affairs there from?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: The matter rests with the Corporation, and I think the Corporation will look into the whole question, carefully before it takes any further step.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether the financial aid is to be provided by the Central Government, or will the Corporation itself find the necessary finance for constructing the building?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: That question has not yet arisen.

POOR HOUSE, DELHI

*227. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant given to the Poor House, Delhi so far during the financial year 1958-59;

(b) the number of inmates in the Poor House on 31st January, 1959; and

(c) whether any scheme for the permanent rehabilitation of beggars was submitted to the Central Government and if so, what action Government have taken on that scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA):

(a) Rs. 47,500 being the total grant received from the Delhi Administration, Delhi Corporation and New Delhi Municipal Committee.

(b) 279.

(c) Some recommendations regarding the reorganisation of the Poor House have been made to Government which are under consideration.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Since when are these recommendations under the consideration of Government after the attention of the hon. Minister had been drawn to a report published in the 'Hindustan Times'? The matter is pending for the last more than three or four years.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: The matter has been pending for the last three or four years, but the society that runs this House has to undertake that work. We have given them suggestions; they have also given their suggestions. But we shall be implementing all this as soon as we appoint a Director of Social Welfare for the Delhi Administration.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: When is this Director of Social Welfare to be appointed, and may I know what the present accommodation is? Is it not to the tune of one thousand of those who have to be put in this Poor House whereas there are only 279 persons?

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: The answer to the first part of his question is that the question of the appointment of the Director is being taken up almost immediately. The answer to the latter part of his question is that the accommodation certainly cannot accommodate a thousand people, but it can certainly accommodate another 279 persons.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that a lot of money is wasted by arresting the beggars and then releasing them after two or three months?

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: The best possible is done to round up the beggars. Even for the diseased beggars, there is a suggestion of the Health Ministry looking into how to house them.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, the actual number of beggars who have been re-arrested after one or two months' release?

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: That does not arise out of this. I have not got the figures.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, the number of trained personnel working in this Poor House?

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: I have not got those figures.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether the attention of the hon. Home Minister has been drawn to the new type of beggars in Connaught Place or Connaught Circus, I mean girls and women of Tibet and Bhutan pestering foreigners? If so, what steps are being taken to cordon off these beggars from this area?

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: I have observed this myself and all possible steps are being taken by the police to solve this problem.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know, Sir, when there is accommodation for 500 beggars, why is their number not increasing in the Poor House?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: The Poor House is under a private body. We are giving grants. We cannot force them to accommodate more than they are doing. But I myself feel that the Poor House is not being administered in a very satisfactory way. This problem is receiving our attention whether . . .

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Is it a fact . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete first.

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: . . . to make a bigger grant or to adopt other means so that a satisfactory solution may be reached.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Is it a fact, Sir, that the number of beggars is not increasing because of one of the reasons being that the grant that the Government of India used to give to this Poor House has been reduced?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: The figure has been given by the Deputy Minister. We propose to increase the grant next financial year.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, if Government has made any recommendation to change the name of the Poor House, and may I know, Sir, what crafts are being taught to the beggars during their stay?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: So far as the name goes, I have suggested that the name should be changed.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether there are any government representatives on the Board of Management?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Perhaps, there are. I cannot say definitely.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ROCK-CUT CAVES OF PITALHORA

*228. **SHRI V. K. DHAGE:** Will the Minister of SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the rock-cut caves at Pitalhora have given out very interesting information? If so, what new light do they throw on the history of India?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): Sculptures of winged animals and yakshas along with crystal reliquaries have been revealed but the finds though very interesting do not appear to throw any new light on the history of India.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know, Sir, what is the expenditure that has been incurred in this regard?