

(b) No rent has yet been paid.

(c) The land, two plots measuring 5.973 and 0.755 acres in the compound of the Travancore House, was occupied in 1943 along with the building.

(d) A request for the release of this property was received from the Chief Secretary of the then State of Travancore-Cochin in November, 1953, to which a reply was sent in October, 1954 expressing the inability of the Government of India to release the land.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: May I know. Sir, if it is a fact that the Government of India were paying to the Kerala Government a round rent for this building at the rate of Rs. 90 per acre whereas the Kerala Government had to pay house tax to the New Delhi Municipal Committee at the rate of Rs. 3001-per acre?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: It is a fact that we have offered a round rent of Rs. 901- per acre. It has been worked on the basis of 5 per cent, of the cost of the land purchased by the then Government of Travancore for the Government of India. Five per cent, of the price paid, Rs. 1,800 an acre—that is the schedule—comes to Rs. 901 - per acre.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: Is it a fact that this building was handed over to the Government of India for the duration of the war and on the specific condition that any temporary residential hutments built there would be purely temporary and the plot would be returned to the Kerala Government after the end of the war?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: The land was made over to the Government of India during the war and the Government of India constructed certain temporary hutments. The main building along with most of the ground was handed over the then Government of Travancore on the cessation of the war.

So far as these temporary hutments are concerned, we have not thought it proper to pull them down because of the scarcity of accommodation in Delhi. I may add that some of the hutments built on the plot of land, 0.755 acres, have been leased out to the Russian Embassy; the others are being used for residential purposes.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: Is it a fact that the Government of India are realising rent for these temporary hutments even now?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: Naturally, when there are structures, rent will be collected.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: Would the Government consider the desirability of returning to the Kerala Government at least that portion of the plot which is still vacant.

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: I do not, Sir, if any land is vacant. There are structures according to my information.

ROCK SALT FOUND IN MANDI

♦286. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rock salt has recently been found in the Darang Mines in the District of Mandi;

(b) if so, what quantity of salt those mines are expected to yield; and

(c) whether the quality tests have been performed on the salt found there?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

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*287. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state wtie-