

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday 11th September, 1958

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF EVACUEE PROPERTY IN HISSAR

*471. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of REHABILITATION AND MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain persons have recently illegally occupied the Kothi and its adjacent land belonging to Khan Abdul Gafoor Khan, an evacuee from Hissar, which is situated near Anaj Mandi, Hissar, Punjab;

(b) if so, what action the local officers have taken to safeguard the rights of the Government on the said evacuee property; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in respect of such unlawful activities?

THE MINISTER OF REHABILITATION AND MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA): (aj Yes. It is however no more an evacuee property as orders have been passed to restore it to the non-evacuee owners.

(b) and (c). The unauthorised persons have been issued notices for the removal of encroachments. The constructions which were being made have been stopped.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know, Sir, when the property has been ordered to be restored to the non-evacuee owners there, whether the Government is not bound to restore it in its original condition?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Well, Sir, it came to our notice only about two months ago that some unauthorised encroachments were being put up. We have taken action

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through the police and we are trying to evict these unauthorised occupants. No more encroachments are taking place.

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि कब से ये लोग इधर हैं ? दूसरे, सरकार को उसकी जानकारी कब मिली ?

श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना : मैंने अभी अंगरेजी में यह कहा था कि हमें जून में इसका पता लगा। इसको दो, तीन महीने हुए हैं और हम उनको निकालने की कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं।

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : यह कोठी कब से खाली पड़ी है ? उसका नोलांम क्यों नहीं हुआ ?

श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना : यह तो निकासी जायदाद रही नहीं, मालिक को वापिस कर रहे हैं।

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : क्या यह जायदाद कस्टोडियन जनरल के दावे में है ?

श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना : मैंने अभी अर्ज किया, वहाँ १६ के नीचे यह जायदाद पहले मालिक को वापिस की जा चुकी है।

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SET UP TO IMPLEMENT DANDAKARANYA SCHEME

*472. SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Will the Minister of REHABILITATION AND MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government to constitute a 'Development Authority' to implement the Dandakaranya Rehabilitation Scheme; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this respect and when it is going to be constituted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF REHABILITATION (SHRI P. S. NASKAR):
(a) Yes.

(b) The Authority will consist of the following:—

1. A Chairman.
2. The Chief Administrator, Dandakaranya Project.
3. Chief Secretaries of the States of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.
4. A representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
5. Member (Engineering).
6. Member (Agriculture).

The Financial Adviser of the Authority will also be its ex-officio Member.

Formal orders constituting this Authority are expected to be issued shortly.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know, Sir, whether any representation has been made by the refugee organisation to be represented on this Authority?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, there is no question of any refugee being represented on this Authority. This Authority is set up for formulation and implementation of the Scheme. As far as displaced persons are concerned, they will be taken there and they will be rehabilitated on the sites that they reclaim. Our idea is to associate some social workers and others at the time of rehabilitation so that they can have cultural contacts and all other social facilities which are needed.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Sir, since this Development Authority is primarily intended to rehabilitate the refugees as such, did the Government not think it appropriate to associate the representatives of refugees so that full co-operation could be had from the very beginning?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, I have already answered this question. This Authority is meant simply to develop the area. Their main job is the development of the

area. As far as the rehabilitation of displaced persons is concerned, when we actually move them from West Bengal, every possible care will be taken and their co-operation sought.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know, Sir, how is it that no representative from Andhra Pradesh is included in this Authority, whereas some portion of Andhra Pradesh also is going to be included in the Dandakaranya Scheme?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: At the present moment our idea is to confine this Scheme to the States of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. When we operate in the area of Andhra Pradesh, their representative will certainly be associated with the scheme.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know, Sir, whether any medical officer has also been associated with this particular scheme, as that area is a highly infected area with malaria and black water?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, this very question about black water was raised by the hon. Member about a year ago and I told him that there was no black water in that area. As far as the medical officer is concerned, we are going to appoint a number of medical officers who will look after the health of the workers as well as of the displaced persons who will be moved there.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Sir, my question is whether any medical authority is going to be associated with this Authority, not that doctors are going to be employed there.

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, under that Authority there will be a number of medical officers.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Sir, does this scheme involve the deforestation of any extensive area, and if so, why the Chief Conservators of Forests of the States have not been represented on this Authority?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, there seems to be some misunderstanding about the personnel of the Authority. We do not want to make the Administration unnecessarily unwieldy. This will be a compact body. But under that Administration, all officers connected with afforestation, engineering and agriculture will be there, and all aspects of the scheme, whether from the point of view of deforestation or from the point of view of afforestation, will be taken into consideration.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Is the Government aware, Sir, that in connection with some rehabilitation scheme in the Madras State, the Rehabilitation Ministry, a few years ago, were responsible for the cutting down of several thousands of Mahuwa trees which involved the Government of India in the loss of valuable foreign exchange in the sale of Mahuwa seeds?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I have heard for the first time that I had a rehabilitation scheme in Madras, it is not within my knowledge, but if any information is given to me, I will certainly look into it.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, the actual progress so far made in respect of reclamation of the Dandakaranya area?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, we have not been able to make any remarkable or appreciable progress so far, but we are making some headway. My main difficulties are manpower and reclamation machinery. For reclamation machinery, we have already placed our order and we hope to have it within the next three or four months.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: What is the progress so far made in regard to the implementation of the Dandakaranya scheme?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not much.

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I think, Sir, we have been able to reclaim a few hundred acres of land near Ferzgaon where we are setting up our first village.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether any help is taken from certain voluntary organisations like the 'Adam Jati Sewa Sangh' and other tribal organisations?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Well, if any manpower can be made available in that area, certainly that will be utilised to the maximum extent.

*473. [The questioner (Shri S. C. Deb) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2801-02 infra.]

SHIFTING OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES OUT OF DELHI

*474. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Central Government Offices which have so far been actually shifted from Delhi to other places in the year 1958;

(b) the actual floor space that has thus been vacated in Delhi; and

(c) the names of offices which could not be shifted in May and June 1958 and whether the proposal to shift them has been given up and if so, for what reasons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA) : (a) to (c). A statement giving the desired information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXII, Annexure No. 44.]

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, how the 50,000 sq. ft. of accommodation now made available because of the transfer of these offices is being disposed of?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: Sir, the question of its disposal does not arise, because the total demand for office