

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, 18th September 1958

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TENTS LYING NEAR HISSAR MODEL TOWN USED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the tents used in 1947 for the rehabilitation of displaced persons at Hissar are still lying in the open near Hissar Model Town; and

(b) if so, whether these tents are of any use now?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF REHABILITATION (SHRI P. S. LASKAR): (a) and* (b). Some unserviceable tents which are useless and of no value are stocked on an open plot near Hissar Model Town. This came to the notice of the Ministry for the first time in May, 1958. A reference was made to the Punjab Government who are concerned with the matter. It has now been decided by a Committee specially set up by the Punjab Government that these tents should be destroyed by burning.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know the number of tents and their prTM and since how long they are lying there?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: I have not got the exact number of the tents that are lying near Hissar Model Town but these tents were given to the Punjab Government after partition and they were used for three consecutive years when they became useless and since then they are lying in that place.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know if the Government is spending Rs. 100 per month on these tents by

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paying a *chaprassi* Rs. 50 and Rs. 50 as rent for the place?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: We have been informed by the Punjab Government that no chowkidar has been appointed specifically to look after these tents but a chowkidar who is employed to look after the Government stores is also looking after these tents.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Just day before yesterday I had occasion to see these tents. They are a heap of dust. Why should this expenditure be borne by the Government on a heap of dust?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: No specific expenditure is borne for maintaining or looking after these tents but for the information of hon. Members I could say that in last May it was me who went up to Hissar when it was brought to my notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says they are reduced to a heap of dust and why for protecting that heap of dust should you have a chowkidar?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: We are not spending anything. A Board has been set up by the Punjab Government and they are suggesting a procedure for disposal.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whose property they were?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: They were given by the Government of India after partition for giving shelter to the refugees.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know when they became useless why they were not sold off?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: It is for the Punjab Government.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Is it a fact that many of these tents were sent to Nagpur soon afterwards and they were found to be useless?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: I have no specific information on that