

[Shri Perath Narayanan Nair.] It is the primary responsibility of the Government to see that Government's requirements in the matter of office accommodation and also for their staff are met. If they have a plan and if they have a target and if they know to what extent the activities of Government are expanding, and also the resources that are there at their disposal, there should not be this lag for all time to come. As a previous speaker mentioned, even in Delhi so much land is available and if they have some target and plan of construction, they will be able to overcome this lag within a measurable period of time. Now to pounce upon the private residential accommodation and thus add to the difficulties of the housing problem which are real in cities like Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta, is not a proper policy for the Government to pursue. Especially when we are having our Second Five Year Plan and our Third Five Year Plan, we can also have a plan by which we would be able to overcome the lag between the requirements of the Government and the actual constructions and so I think to say that this lag will continue for all time to come, is not the proper attitude or outlook for the Government to take.

Again, during the last six years, the Ministry has had a lot of experience about the actual working of this Act. Innumerable complaints they have had, in regard to so many things, with regard to the requisitioning of land, from peasants in the Punjab, for example, with regard to the requisitioning of land and houses in many parts in West Bengal, especially 'South Calcutta, complaints about the inordinate delay in settling claims, in fixing the quantum of compensation. There have been a number of instances, even pointing to some sort of discrimination in the matter of requisitioning, that people with influence, we are told, have been able to see that their property is not requisitioned or even if it is requisitioned, they can get it released. But so far as the poor people are concerned, especially

the kisans and others, when their land and properties are requisitioned by the Defence Department, these poor people are put to all sorts of difficulties. Even in getting to know about the actual procedure to be followed about these things, they have absolutely no access to these officials. We have got all these difficulties pointed out in the actual administration of this Act during the last so many years and if only the Ministry had thought it fit to share their experience in the actual working of this Act with this House, and if they had come forward with suitable amendments to the substantive provisions of this Act, it would have been quite well and we would have found no difficulty in extending our support to the actual minimum requirements for a limited number of years. But as it is, I feel called upon to support the amendment moved by Shri Kishen Chand which seeks to limit the period of this Act to seven years. This will give ample opportunity to the Minister to think out what substantial changes must be made in the substantive provisions of this Act.

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE CHAGLA COMMISSION'S REPORT

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call upon the Deputy Minister to speak, I want to make an announcement. As the time for discussion in the other House has been extended, we have to take up the Report on the L.I.C. on Friday and not on Thursday, and we will have about seven hours, if you want, from 11 to 6, that is, if you want.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Yes, yes, we want.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: But on Friday we have the Private Members' Bills.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is being postponed.