

my hon. friend has seen stacked somewhere is also for the future expansion of the telecommunication system in that area.

*168. [For answer, vide, Cols. 1296-97 infra]

ALLOTMENT OF GOVERNMENT RESIDENCES IN GOLE MARKET OR IN GOLE POST OFFICE AREA

*169. DR. R. P. DUBE: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the number, designation and the pay of officers who were allotted Government residences in Gole Market or in Gole Post Office area from other areas like the Minto Road, Lodi Road, etc., during the period from the 1st April, 1953 to the 30th June, 1956;

(b) whether all these officers were charged normal rent recoverable from them for the residences provided to them or whether any higher rent was charged from any of them; and

(c) if any excess rent was charged from any of the officers, what was the reason for doing so?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Government residences are allotted according to their classification in various pay groups and not according to the posts held by Government servants. A statement containing the number of officers in the various classes who were allotted accommodation in the Gole Market and Gole Post Office areas in lieu of their accommodation in other areas during the period from 1st April, 1953 to 30th June, 1956 is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV, Annexure No. 45].

(b) Normal rent was charged.

(c) Does not arise.

DR. R. P. DUBE: May I know what were the reasons for the officers being shifted from Minto Road, Lodi Road, etc., to the Gole Market and Gole Post Office area?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Not shifted; the allottees always want to shift to a place which is more convenient to them. We maintain certain registers and give option to the* officers to shift to these localities which are called as popular localities.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Were not the rents raised at all?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: We do not run this on a commercial basis. Merely because a place is popular and people want to come there, we do not charge higher rent. We are not like ordinary landlords; there are certain rules for calculating the rent and we stick to those rules.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Is it a fact that that people who were paying less are now paying more rent?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I think there is some confusion in the mind of the hon. Member.

DR. R. DUBE: None at all.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: If he has in his mind the case of officers who were originally in that area and who were asked to shift to other areas and if they do not shift, a higher rent is charged, then it is a different matter altogether because some of the officers who were in a lower pay group went into a pay group which made the accommodation they were having out of class. They must make way for others who are waiting for accommodation. If they do not shift then we charge higher rents.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Is it a fact that these officers who are staying have not shifted to other places in the public interest?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: No, Sir. Most of them want to pay lower rent and want to stick on to this accommodation and we compel them to move to accommodation of their own class.

**NON-SHIFTING OF OFFICERS RESIDING IN
LOWER CLASSES OF ACCOMMODATION TO
THEIR CLASS OF ACCOMMODATION**

•170. DR. R. P. DUBE: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last three years any officers of the Central Government occupying Government residences of classes lower than those to which they were entitled were allowed to stay on in those residences and not shifted to new residences of their own class;

(b) whether all such officers were charged normal rent due from them for the residences they occupied or whether higher rent was recovered from them; and

(c) if any officer was not charged higher rent, what were the reasons for not doing so?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Ordinarily this is not permissible but there have been cases in which exceptions have been made for special reasons and for limited periods.

(b) Higher rent was recovered, except in a few cases.

(c) Penal rent was not charged in a few cases because the officers concerned were allowed to retain the lower class accommodation either in the public interest or due to their physical disability.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Is it a fact that that penal rent is recovered from certain officers although the Government accepted that it was in the public interest that these officers should not be shifted from the areas where they have been residing? If so, why?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : That is coming from a general proposition to a particular case. I would like to know the facts and the particulars about the individual case he has in mind before I can answer a question of that nature.

SHRI G. RANGA: What steps do Government take to see that no particular discrimination in favour of any one of these officers is made when this public interest is invoked? Is it the case that all such cases should be brought to the notice of someone very high up in the Secretariat in order to see that any particular person is not specially favoured in that although he is paid a higher salary and entitled to a house of higher rent, yet he is allowed to stay in a house allowed for a lower class employee?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There are certain rules of allotment and if any allotment is made or cancelled in accordance with those rules, then the Estate Office itself can do that. But if it involves any relaxation then it goes fairly high up, normally to an officer of the status of a Joint Secretary. If any rule has to be relaxed, quite a large number of cases are seen by me personally and the policy is not to give relaxation.

BABU GOPINATH SINGH: Is it a fact that some of the houses have been upgraded and the houses meant for lower salaried officers are now given to higher salaried officers and if a person who occupied a lower rent house is not shifted to another quarter, he is now required to pay higher rent?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Yes, Sir. Quite correct and very rightly so because the number of officers has increased very much and we have also to revise our notions with regard to these classes and the like. The new construction that we have undertaken is mostly of the flat type and the older houses— so-called upgraded houses— are generally preferred to the new construction. So there is no hardship involved.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Is it a fact that house that used to be charged Rs. 30' is being now charged Rs. 93 ?