

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, 2nd May 1956

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SCHEME FOR DECORATING PUBLIC BUILDINGS

*90. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have laid down any scheme for the decoration of new public buildings with Indian art features; if so, whether such work will be distributed directly to artists or through contractors; and

(b) whether the services of some artists have already been commissioned for the purpose; if so, their names, the mode of selection, the commissions given so far, and the cost of each commission?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : Yes, Sir, A Committee has been constituted by the Government of India to advise them on the decoration of public buildings. The work will be given directly to the artists, recommended by the Decoration Committee and not through Contractors.*

(b) Yes, Sir. In the case of Auditor General's office building, artists were selected before coming into being of the Decoration Committee.

The sculptural work, consisting of nine panels for the external face of this building, has been entrusted to Shri Chintamani Kar. He was selected as a result of the decision taken in an informal meeting, consisting of the Auditor General of India, Additional Chief Engineer, Chief Architect, Senior Architect, Central P.W.D, and the Secretary Lalit Kala Akade-my. The amount of the commission to be paid is Rs. 27,000 out of which 42 RSD—1

Rs. 6,750 have already been paid as advance.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: There is such a haste to form committees, but may I know from the Minister as to whether they are contemplating the drawing up of a register of working artists in the country, as well as in the capital?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I will pass that suggestion on to the Decoration Committee.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know whether it is true that an artist who offers himself has to pay earnest money on the same level as the contractors do? Is it fair or unfair in the view of the Minister?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I would check up the facts before I could express an opinion, but I would leave all these things to be worked out by the Decoration Committee. If the artists experience any difficulty, the Decoration Committee is the proper authority really to alleviate their difficulties.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: I want to bring to the notice of the Minister that there are a number of really good artists who do not get any opportunity to work, while there are certain—including the one mentioned here—who keep on getting work worth about Rs. 20,000, or Rs. 30,000, or Rs. 50,000, on every commission.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I am sorry to note this. If that is the impression that the hon. lady Member has got, I will pass on the information to the members of the Decoration Committee. The selection of artists is always a very difficult task, and the type of members of this committee will be known if I read out the names. They are:

1. Shri Karl J. Khandalwala, Bombay.
2. Shri Barada UkiL New Delhi
3. Chief Engineer, Central P.W.D., New Delhi.

4. Chief Architect, Central P.W.D., New Delhi.

5. Shri C. Venkatachalam, Bangalore.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: The difficulty is that unless you have a register of artists and of what each artist stands for, how can you distribute the work?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has already replied to that question.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is Government taking care to employ artists from different parts of the country so that art from those parts is duly represented?

SARDAR SW AR AN SINGH: This is a very good suggestion and I am sure the Decoration Committee will take good note of this.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: Will the hon. Minister see that real and good artists are not left out owing to financial difficulty, earnest money, so on and so forth?

SARDAR SW AR AN SINGH: This is a vrsy desirable thing and I am sure the Decoration Committee could take note of this also.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if the contract is given to a person for him alone to work, or he can take some others along with him?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is a martter of detail about which I have no information.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Does any liaison exist at present between the hon. Minister for Works, Housing and Supply and the Decoration Committee?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: My Chief Engineer and the Chief Architect are both members of the Committee.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Is the hon. Minister kept informed of the activities and other matters entrusted to the care of the Decoration Committee?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That is how I have been able to answer these questions.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Is it not a fact that the answers have been unsatisfactory??

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: In view of the fact that some of the paintings, particularly on the Secretariat walls and ceilings, are not what they should be in such places, will Government see that a woman member is taken on to this committee because, Sir, ideas of decorum and decency have gone astray in the selection of these? (Laughter).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a suggestion for action.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That is a suggestion for action, Sir, but then, should I take the laughter of the House as an expression of support of the proposition or as derision?

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Support.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTHY: What is the difficulty in getting a list prepared if that would satisfy the Members of this House?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I do not anticipate any difficulty.

चरखे से प्रति व्यक्ति आय

*६१ श्रीमति सावित्री निगम : क्या

उत्पादन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) साधारण चरखों से प्रति दिन प्रति व्यक्ति कितनी आय होती है ; और

(ख) यदि चार तकुओं वाले अम्बर चरखों को आठ घंटे चलाया जाये तो उस से प्रति दिन प्रति व्यक्ति कितनी आय होती है ?