

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, 22nd August 1955

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CLOSING DOWN OF HOSTEL AT WESTERN HOUSE

*83. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state whether the Young Women's Christian Association have decided to close down the hostel at Western House; and, if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): The hostel is not being closed down. The Y. W. C. A. who were managing it are giving up the management as, presumably with the completion of their additional hostel at Asoka Road, they will find it difficult to run this also.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Who will run this Hostel, if the Y. W. C. A. is not going to run it?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That matter is receiving attention. The intention is to associate the Delhi Social Welfare Board with the management of this hostel.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: What is the date of the termination of this agreement with the Y. W. C. A.?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The Y. W. C. A. want to get out of it by the end of this month.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Could we know why the Y. W. C. A. want to get out of this agreement, especially when this place has been got from the Government free of rent and furnished free?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That should be asked from the Y. W. C. A. rather than from the Government. They have put up another hostel at Asoka Road and probably they do not want to disperse all over.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Is it a fact that the hostel that has been put up there is only for the higher income group of women and that the women who will be thrown out of the Hostel at Western House will not be accommodated as they are in the Rs. 200 and less group?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I think the hon. Member is not right in presuming that those girls or women who are accommodated in the Western House Hostel are going to be thrown out. Only the Y. W. C. A. are quitting and we cannot prevent them from leaving.

SHRIMATI MONA HENSMAN: May I ask the hon. Minister to instruct the Association, or whoever is going to take charge of this Hostel, to see that the girls who are accommodated there do not suffer any inconvenience by having to move out of their rooms and then move in again?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Government was not charging any rent from the Y. W. C. A. I am not quite sure as to whether this is a really satisfactory arrangement, because these are concealed subsidies which are ultimately passed on to individuals at the expense of the general tax payer. This point is not clear to me. There are always two opinions about this.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: What is the number of the residents of this Hostel and, has anybody approached Government for taking over the management of this Hostel? If so, who is that person?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: We do not encourage the inmates of the Hostel really to approach Govern-

ment and make a request that they should take over its management.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: I asked the two questions together for convenience. I want to know (i) the number of the inmates of the Hostel and (ii) what agency has approached Government for taking over that Hostel and running it?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The number of inmates would be about 150, but I am not very exact about the number because the number would be fluctuating as the very word 'hostel' indicates. If the Y. W. C. A. moves out—as they have intimated that they want to—I have already said that the Delhi State Social Welfare Board is being approached for purposes of their association in the matter of running this Hostel.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: Since it is not clear to me from the reply given so far, may I know whether I am right in understanding that the inmates of this Hostel will not be asked to vacate it, and, if they are, under any circumstances, asked to vacate it, is the Government making any alternative arrangements for their accommodation?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have, Sir, often a feeling that we are pushing this theory of alternative accommodation a little too far. No one can guarantee them anything more than what they enjoy even today. Even today, the inmates can be asked to leave for a number of reasons, e.g., if they do not find the place convenient. There is no such fixed interest that could be recognised, but every effort will be made not to cause inconvenience.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: My first question has not been answered.

(No reply.)

CONTRIBUTION MADE BY INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION IN THE FORM OF SUBSCRIPTION

*84. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial contribution made by India to the United Nations Organisation during the year 1954-55; and

(b) the number of Indians who were working in the United Nations Organisation during the same period?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Assessments are made by the United Nations on calendar year basis. The amount assessed as payable by India for the year 1954 was Rs. 63,43,705 and for the year 1955 it is Rs. 58,38,562.

(b) Sixty-five Indians were working in the United Nations as on the 28th February 1955.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is the Government satisfied with the number of Indians employed there at present?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, the number of Indians employed in the U. N. depends upon our contribution and I think the figures approximate to the number that we are entitled to.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that the Government of India have represented to the U. N. that they should employ more Indians?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes, Sir; every country does that.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What has been the result of our asking for employment of more Indians?

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The Prime Minister might like to reply.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Calculating the number of Indians