

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that there have been reports in the newspapers that this Committee had examined the position of the small units round about Howrah, and had also made certain recommendations? Is that a fact?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I think so.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: If that is so, then my question was this. What were the recommendations made by this Advisory Committee for resuscitation of the small units round about Howrah?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: My hon. friend will doubtless appreciate that it is not always possible for us to state anything in detail regarding every recommendation made about every locality. But if my hon. friend is interested in any particular locality, I wish he sets down a question, and we shall do our best to answer it.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know why this capacity in the engineering industry, from 25 to 40 per cent., is lying idle, whether it is due to the imports of such machineries from abroad or due to the low purchasing capacity at home?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, different reasons have been given by different parties. Now, the different reasons indicated are:

- (1) shortage of essential raw materials—pig-iron and steel,
- (2) shortage of working capital for the medium and small units,
- (3) shortage of finance for the purchase of machinery and equipment essential for modernisation of the factories, and

i4) outstanding problems of labour, and labour-management relationship.

These are the various reasons indicated, and we are doing our best to do what we can.

AIRPORTS MAINTAINED BY C.P.W.D.

*351. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports which are maintained by the Central Public Works Department;

(b) at how many of these airports the work-charged staff required for the maintenance of those airports have been provided with Government accommodation; and

(c) what is the total number of quarters provided at each of those airports?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) 84.

(b) 37.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 105.]

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that a majority of these aerodromes are situated about 10 to 15 miles away from the cities, and therefore, it entails a great deal of difficulty for the employees—the work-charged staff—to go to work? May I also know whether the Ministry has any plan to provide accommodation to all the work-charged staff, and how long will it take to provide such accommodation?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I do admit that at present the accommodation

available is not at all adequate to meet the requirements of the staff and with a view to providing at least 60 per cent, of the accommodation required at the various airports, the construction of additional accommodation is proposed to be undertaken and this is also included in the Five Year Plan. We intend to formulate proposals accordingly.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know what facilities are given to that portion of the staff who are not provided with houses and who have to live at a distance from their place of work?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: All the persons who work in the air-fields need not necessarily stay there. In deciding the question of allotment of accommodation to the staff, the essential nature of the work performed is one of the criteria. Those who do not get accommodation on the premises are recruited from nearby localities. They get their emoluments and that is all. No particular facility is provided to them.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether their emoluments include house-rent allowance, transport allowances or something like that?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There are various airports and the rates might differ from airport to airport. If any specific question is put, I will try to collect the information.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know what is the general policy followed in this matter, whether any instructions have been issued about the extra payments to be made to those persons who are not provided with housing accommodation?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There is no question of general policy. The work-charged staff to whom this question relates are recruited upon emoluments which are known to them be-

forehand. They are not permanent staff, and the terms of their employment, the emoluments they are entitled to, and the other concessions that are given to them, vary from locality to locality with due regard being paid to local conditions.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that these work-charged staff who are temporary are continuing in service without being confirmed for years and years?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That, Sir, is too general a statement, and I do not accept it.

EXPENSIVE LOCALITY ALLOWANCE TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

*352. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister for WORKS » HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to-state :

(a) whether any expensive locality allowance is given to Central Government employees at Mandapant Camp;

(b) whether it is a fact that this allowance is not given to the work-charged staff of the Central Public Works Department at that Camp; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes. Some Government employees are in receipt of this allowance.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The conditions of service of work-charged staff are not identical with those of regular establishment.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: The hon. Minister said that some Government employees are being given this allowance but not the work-charged staff. May I know why this