

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: I did not hear the first part of the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing has been finalised; negotiations are going on

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Which negotiations?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Negotiations between an Indian concern and an Italian concern.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Has any Indian firm come forward to negotiate with the Government on the establishment of a rayon factory?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir, an Indian firm is negotiating with an Italian firm.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Are there any investigations made with reference to bamboo as a raw material for wood pulp?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: In yesterday's newspapers there was such a thing mentioned but there is no ready and useful information on which to start an investigation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you read the papers?

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

*467. SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any proposal to demolish certain existing hutments for the purpose of constructing additional residential accommodation for Government employees in Delhi; and

(b) if so, which are the hutments proposed to be demolished and who are the present occupants of these hutments?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hutments on Wellesley Road and near Purana Qila, in New Delhi, these are at present occupied by Government officers.

G. A. T. T. CONFERENCE

*468. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether India will attend the forthcoming General Agreement on Tariff and Trade Conference to be held in October, 1954; and

(b) if so, who will be the members of the Indian delegation to that Conference?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

(1) Shri N. R. Pillai Secretary-General—Representative

(2) Shri L. K. Jha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry—Alternate

(3) Shri G. S. Bansal, M.P.—Member.

(4) Shri E. Rajaram Rao, Member (Customs), Central Board of Revenue—Member

(5) Shri B. N. Adarkar, Member, Tariff Commission—Member

Shri S. Sen, Consul-General for India in Geneva and Shri A. K. Mukharji,

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) who is already in Europe will also be associated with the work of the delegation.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: May I know whether any observers are going to be sent and if so the names of the observers?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The question of sending one or more observers is still under consideration. It is likely that one Member of this House may be sent as an observer.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know what are the terms of this conference? Is there anything with regard to the organisation of a World Trade Organisation?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is regarding multilateral agreements for the reduction of tariffs. There was such a conference in 1947-48 the result of which was this GATT Organisation. A general review of the work during the last six years is to be undertaken during the coming session of the Conference.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know if the Fiscal Commission has made any observations with regard to GATT and if so what are the observations made in their Report?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I think both of us together will read the Report of the Fiscal Commission.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Have the Government formulated any proposals of their own to be put before this Conference?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: This Conference deals with rather important matters and they are under the consideration of the Government at the present moment. It would be premature for us to give any detailed statement regarding any matter finalised or to be finalised.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Does not the hon. Minister think that if any changes are to be made in the tariff policy or fiscal policy of the country, they should be placed before Parliament first in order to ascertain its opinion?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: In this matter the Government tried to ascertain the opinion of commercial bodies like the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, etc. and any views of Members of Parliament who are interested in it are welcome.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Apart from the Federation, has the opinion of the consumers and other affected bodies been also elicited?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It is very difficult to consult everybody—consumers and others. The whole question is open and anyone is welcome to send any suggestion to the Government and I can assure the hon. Member that the Government will carefully consider all such suggestion.

SHRI B. GUPTA: The Fiscal Commission has said in its Report that the Agreement operates to the detriment of Indian interests and very strong comments have been made with regard to that. I want to know what steps the Government are taking to act on the basis of those observations.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: 'I must varify what the hon. Member says because my memory does not justify the statement that my hon. friend made just now that the Fiscal Commission has said that GATT has worked to the detriment of the country taken as a whole.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is it true that the Government are trying to raise tariff and liberalise quantitative controls?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: There is a Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: That is in regard to a certain item, but is that the

general policy of the Government at the moment?

SHRI D P KARMAKAR We cannot make a general statement like that. We shall take all steps wherever and whenever they become necessary.

AUCTION OF GOVERNMENT-BUILT HOUSES

*469 SHRI V K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for REHABILITATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the auction of the Government-built houses in refugee colonies has started;

(b) if so, which are the places where such houses are being auctioned; and

(c) how many houses have so far been auctioned and at what price?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR REHABILITATION (SHRI J K BHONSLE)

(a) Yes. Some vacant houses in the colonies in Delhi are being auctioned.

(b) Auctions have been held in Tilak Nagar, Moti Nagar, Malviya Nagar, Kalkaji and Lajpat Nagar. Vacant houses in some other colonies will be offered for sale.

(c) Up to the 20th September 1954 out of 123 houses offered for sale at auctions, 111 houses have been sold for Rs 10,55,015.

SHRI V K DHAGE May I know whether the auctions held by the Government have been successful?

SHRI J K BHONSLE As far as we are concerned, yes.

SHRI M VALIULLA Because of these auctions have any people been dislodged from their quarters?

SHRI J K BHONSLE No, Sir.

DR P C MITRA May I know whether any preference is given to refugees?

SHRI J K BHONSLE They are meant for refugees.

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA What is the cost of construction of the houses which have been auctioned?

SHRI J K BHONSLE It is very difficult, Sir, I have not got the actual figures but 111 houses had been constructed at a cost of Rs 8,80,749.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN How much was the auction for?

MR CHAIRMAN Rs 10,55,000.

SHRI M VALIULLA Is it not a fact that demonstrations were held against these auctions?

SHRI J K BHONSLE In one place there was demonstration.

SHRI M VALIULLA What was the ground for demonstration?

SHRI J K BHONSLE That they did not want the houses to be auctioned.

SHRI P SUNDARAYYA Was there a lathi charge on the people who said that the houses should not be auctioned?

SHRI J K BHONSLE No, Sir. There was no lathi charge. (Interruptions)

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN The Communists do it.

SHRI P SUNDARAYYA The Congress people do it because you have got a majority.

MR CHAIRMAN Order, order. It was a peaceful demonstration, peacefully controlled.

SHRI P SUNDARAYYA Do the Government propose to put this profit of Rs 2,50,000 in the compensation pool for the refugees?

SHRI J K BHONSLE First let me make it quite clear that the Government does not want to make any profit.