

(a) whether a representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is stationed in India; and

(b) what assistance has been received by India from the United Nations Organisation to solve the refugee problem in India?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU):

(a) No.

(b) India has neither asked for nor received any assistance from the United Nations to solve her refugee problem.

AMOUNT SPENT FOR INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL HOUSING

50. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state the sums paid by the Central Government for industrial housing to each of the States in the years 1951-52 and 1952-53 and so far in 1953-54?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): A statement containing the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, Annexure No. 21.]

HOUSING PROBLEM IN INDIA

51. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the total housing requirements of (i) the rural population and (ii) urban population in the country; and

(b) whether any survey has been made in this regard; and if so, what is the result of the survey?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). No such conclusive and country-wide survey of housing requirements has

been made. The fact that there is acute shortage of housing, both urban and rural, is however obvious and this is reinforced by the estimates made by the Environmental Hygiene Committee in 1949 and the information collected by the Planning Commission, though these are confined to urban areas.

PREPARATION OF DAM PROJECT DESIGNS

52. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number and particulars of the dam project designs which are under preparation by the Government of India;

(b) the designs which were completed during the year 1952-53 and up to 12th October 1953; and

(c) the cost of construction of each of the dams, for which designs have been prepared?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) The number of dam project designs under preparation in the Central Designs Organisation of the Central Water & Power Commission is two. Their particulars are:

(i) preparation of detailed drawings for Hirakud main dam and appurtenant works; and

(ii) alternative designs connected with the Kosi Project.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the requisite information for 1952-53 and for 1953 up to the end of October 1953 is attached. [See Appendix VI, Annexure No. 22.]

BUILDINGS OWNED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN BOMBAY

53. SHRI D. Y. PAWAR: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of buildings owned by the Central Government in the State of Bombay; and

(b) the amount spent on these buildings for their maintenance in each year from 1948 onwards?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The number of buildings owned by the Central Government in the State of Bombay is 1,690.

The amounts spent on the maintenance of these buildings are as follows:—

Year	Amount Rs.
1948-49	.. 7,73,000
1949-50	.. 8,01,000
1950-51	.. 7,18,000
1951-52	.. 8,27,000
1952-53	.. 10,30,000

NOTE.—This does not include buildings owned by the Ministries of Defence, Rehabilitation, Information and Broadcasting, Irrigation and Power and Railways.

THE SEA CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Sea Customs Act, 1878, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

Sir, I think it is necessary here to give something like a background about the present amending Bill. India was for long mostly an exporter of raw materials, but during the last few years the trade set-up of India has radically changed and India can no longer be considered to be merely an exporter of raw materials. It has been exporting quite a huge quantity of finished goods, semi-manufactured

as well as manufactured goods. For the manufacture of these goods we have to import some raw materials and also some semi-manufactured materials to form the component parts of our own manufactured goods. We get import duty on these materials coming into India. So, in the world competition our manufactured goods stand in a somewhat disadvantageous position, particularly with the re-entry of Japan and Germany in the field of industrial competition. It has therefore become necessary for the Government to help our industries and our export trade in manufactured goods to enable them to meet the competition from other countries. The position has become rather serious as regards textile goods. During the last few years we have been exporting quite a considerable quantity of textile goods to countries outside India. Now, our textile production has increased almost to the level of the target fixed in the Five Year Plan, but our export has not kept pace with our manufacture, and the result is that huge stocks of textile goods are being piled up in godowns and stores. It is with a view to helping such industries as find themselves in difficulties as regards their export trade that this Bill has been brought before Parliament. We tried to take advantage of the present provisions of the Indian Sea Customs Act to give relief to these industries but it has not been possible under these existing provisions to give the required relief. The nearest approach in the present Indian Sea Customs Act to the provision which we are now trying to put through in the amending Bill is section 42, but this section is meant only for giving relief in respect of articles made for re-export. The section says:

“When any goods, capable of being easily identified, which have been imported by sea into any customs-port from any foreign port, and upon which duties of customs have been paid on importation, are re-exported by sea from such customs-port to any foreign port, or as