

(2) the original licensees having expired in some cases, the question as to who the rightful claimants are is under correspondence with the authorities concerned and/or the licensees' representatives.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Is the Government aware that due to the inordinate delay in making these refunds, people are put to great difficulties in Malabar, South Kanara and other districts?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: The question is not audible Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asks whether you are aware that on account of this delay many people in Malabar etc. have been put to considerable inconvenience.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Sir, I have stated that out of 32,000 cases, only 1,000 cases are still pending and Government are taking every step to expedite the repayment of these dues.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: It is more than two years since the order regarding this refund was made.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: But when Government is not able to get the whereabouts of those claimants, how can Government make the repayments? Government have taken every step. In fact, they have even waived some of the ordinary audit formalities, also so that the payments may be made quickly and extra staff has also been engaged to expedite the work.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Is it a fact that certain individuals made specific applications to Government stating that the amounts have not been refunded? And have Government taken any steps in regard to those applications?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: As far as I can see, no individual petitions have been kept unattended to, and I think Government have taken every step to make the payments. If the hon.

Member can bring any such case to the notice of Government, I will take every step to dispose of it as early as possible.

SHRI K. B. LALL: How many manufacturers in Bihar got this refund?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: In Patna Circle, the total of original claims was 2,482, of which only 135 are pending; and I think even out of these 135 quite a large number have since been cleared i.e., orders having been passed for their payment.

SHRI K. B. LALL: Have they all applied for it?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I cannot say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### PRIVILEGE TICKET ORDER CONCESSION

\*30. SHRI RAHMAT-ULLAH: Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS please refer to starred question No. 179 answered in the Council on the 3rd March 1953 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Privilege Ticket Order concession recommended by the Central Pay Commission to the Central Government employees has not yet been given effect to;

(b) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) are allowed free railway passes for themselves and their families; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for this discrimination among the Central Government employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) The Privilege Ticket Order concession which was introduced on 1st January 1948 was suspended from the 5th October 1949 in view of the imperative need for economy in expenditure. It has been decided that it should be held in abeyance for the present.

(b) and (c). The terms and conditions of service of railway employees are not quite the same as those of other Central Government employees. Even though, uniform scales of pay have been introduced for all Government employees as a result of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission, there are other conditions of service which still remain different such as pension and provident fund, travelling and other allowances. The grant of travel concessions has, in fact, always and in every country been associated with the terms and conditions of railway service but not with those of other Government services.

#### RESEARCH MADE TO REDUCE THE COST OF HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

22. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been made in the matter of reducing the cost of house construction and of fuller utilisation of indigenous building materials available; and

(b) if so, what have been the results of such research and what machinery was employed to do it?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

Ways and means of reducing the cost of houses and the fuller utilisation of indigenous building material available are important items of research at the Central Building Research Institute. Early this year the Institute put up two corrugated shell houses, popularly termed as "CBRI Shell Houses" to serve as demonstration units and to study their suitability under the Roorkee climate. The first unit shows a complete house with partitions, lining, and fittings. The other one indicates the various stages of construction of the corrugated shell.

The materials used in the construction are cement, sand coarse aggregate and hessian. The hessian is used for initially supporting concrete till it sets, afterwards it forms the internal finish. All the material required can be called indigenous materials in a wide sense.

The experimental C. B. R. I. house that is standing in the Institute premises has two independent units each consisting of a verandah, 133 sq. ft., a living room, 144 sq. ft., a kitchen and a small roof each 62 sq. ft. and shelf space of 49 sq. ft.

On the basis of a minimum contract of 200 houses to be constructed, a firm of builders has quoted Rs. 807 per house, which amounts to Rs. 1-12 per sq. ft. of covered floor area. With a double shell for better insulation, the price goes up by 12 annas per sq. ft. that is to Rs. 2/8. The quotation is for the main structure only, i.e., foundations, walls, roof and floor. It does not include partitions, doors, windows, internal fittings, painting, or other internal finishing for which an additional Rs. 685 will be needed.

The material and labour required for a house of 1,000 sq. ft. floor area as compared with a conventional brick house are as follows:—