

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: In the capital?

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Yes, Sir.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I can say with a certain amount of confidence that the housing situation in Delhi has been considerably relieved of late and the original pernicious practice of *pugree* and such like other things have disappeared to a very great extent. I cannot say they have entirely disappeared, but the situation has greatly improved.

EXPEDITIONS TO THE HIMALAYAS

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

(a) the number of mountaineering expeditions to the Himalayas during the last five years;

(b) out of the expeditions how many were Indian and how many foreign, and how many were combined expeditions;

(c) what was the duration of stay of each of the foreign expeditions in India, *i.e.*, the time between their arrival, in and departure from India;

(d) how many of these expeditions succeeded in reaching their target on the Himalayas;

(e) whether any financial help was given by Government to any of these expeditions; and

(f) if so, how much?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Twenty-three.

(b) One Indian, and the remaining foreign.

(c) Government have no information about the exact duration of their stay in India, but it did not generally exceed six months.

(d) Government have no information.

(e) and (f). None.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Were any railway concessions or any other concession given to the expeditions?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No, Sir. The only concession that was given was exemption from payment of customs duty on certain equipment.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is the name of the Indian expedition that went there?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Shri Asoka Mudgaonkar of Bombay's Expedition to Himalayas and Nepal.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Which nationalities were represented in the other expeditions?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Seven nationalities.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Which?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Swiss, Danish, British, Italian, French, New Zealand and Japanese.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if these expeditions are making available to the Indian Government the results of the expeditions, especially from the geographical point of view?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The question does not arise, Sir.

EXPORT OF IRON ORE TO JAPAN

*715. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into an agreement with Japan regarding the export of iron ore to Japan;

(b) what is India's reserve of iron ore; and

(c) which are the areas in India where the iron ore is found in plenty?