

COUNCIL OF STATES

Thursday, 14th May, 1953

The Council met at a quarter past eight of the clock in the morning, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HOUSES BUILT BY GOVERNMENT IN DELHI

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

(a) the number of houses built by Government and by agencies other than Government in New Delhi and in Old Delhi in 1952-53.

(b) the number of houses required to meet the need of the population;

(c) the number of sites sold or leased by Government to private agencies during the same period for the construction of houses;

(d) what is the deficiency in the housing of the population in New Delhi and Old Delhi;

(e) when Government expect to make up that deficiency in the housing; and

(f) the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) The number of houses built in 1952-53 by Government and other agencies as far as information is available, is about 8,753.

(b) In the absence of prescribed standards of accommodation for the general population, any such calculation will be a matter of guess.

(c) About 4,451.

(d) The information is not available.

(e) No date line can be fixed for this purpose

46 CSD

(f) A number of houses will continue to be constructed year to year by Government for their employees and for displaced persons, till the situation is sufficiently eased. The Government are administering a Subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme, under which liberal financial assistance is available for the construction of approved housing projects for industrial workers. The Government are also encouraging private building activity.

SHRI M VALIULLA Out of 8,753 houses built, how many were built by Government, Sir?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: 1,108, besides the rehabilitation tenements.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Are these 1,108 houses, residential buildings or buildings for some offices also?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: They are all residential buildings

SHRI M VALIULLA What is the rent collected during that year from the buildings?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH That does not arise out of this question, Sir. Besides, that will entail huge figure work. If my hon friend puts a separate question I am prepared to collect the information

SHRI M VALIULLA Sir, what is the expenditure involved in building these houses?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have not got the figures

DR P C MITRA Are the Government-built houses let out only to Government servants or to the general public also?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH To Government servants except in one or two odd cases.

DR P. C MITRA On what basis is the rent fixed?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH Rent, Sir, is generally fixed on the expenditure

incurred, but there is a ceiling. Most of the rentals that are charged by Government are on a subsidised basis because the pay scale of the various officials who are occupying these tenements—a certain percentage of that—does not really come up even to the minimum economic rents.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What is the total amount of rent realised in 1953?

MR CHAIRMAN: That question was already put.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: The hon. Minister was pleased to say that the Government was encouraging private agencies to build houses. May I know, what are the steps taken to encourage private agencies?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: We take steps to relieve the difficulties which are experienced in the matter of securing building material and also by relaxing certain provisions relating to requisition etc. with regard to new structures.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Have you examined the standard and type of houses built at Chandigarh and do you propose to adopt that standard here?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I may strongly recommend that my learned friend, who is going there, should also acquaint himself with that problem.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: My question was this. Have you examined the types of buildings that have been adopted at Chandigarh and do you propose to adopt those types here?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: For the information of my hon. friend I may say that there is no question of my examining those types. I claim to be responsible for actually finalising most of those standards and I know every bit of it.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Do you propose to adopt those standards here at the Centre, because we are very proud of those standards?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I am glad, Sir, that my hon. friend is proud of at least something. I can say, Sir, that such of the points as are an improvement upon the existing standards will certainly be adopted.

(Shri H. C. Mathur got up again. Prof. Ranga also got up.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mathur, Chandigarh is a different story. Let us hear Ranga.

PROF. G. RANGA: Have the standards been lowered in any way for the houses that have been built during the last three or four years? Because in some of these M. P.s' flats, when the first floor or the second floor is washed, the water comes to the ground floor.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I am very sorry, Sir, if that is the experience. I will look into that and try and remove the defect. The general standard of construction has not in any way deteriorated. There may be some defect in one or two flats and as soon as that is detected, steps are taken to rectify it.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Does this not relate to urban houses? May I know if there is any scheme for building houses in the rural areas?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is all New Delhi and Old Delhi.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Other than in New Delhi and Old Delhi, Sir?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I thought Sir, that neither Old Delhi nor New Delhi had yet become rural areas.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: In view of the alarming shortage of housing, especially in the capital of our country, do the Government propose to bring in a comprehensive scheme whereby we will at least be able to afford housing to our people?

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?