

(b) As soon as the design and estimates are prepared and finalised, tenders will be invited by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Bihar, for the work. As far as it can be visualised, the bridge may take about three years for its completion, after the tenders are accepted and the work is actually commenced.

The bridge will be about 3,600 feet long. The site is just downstream of Buxar town.]

† DOWNGRADING OF ASHOKA HOTEL,
NEW DELHI

144. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SARDAR RAM SINGH :
SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee appointed to review and survey hotels in public and private sectors has downgraded Ashoka Hotel, in New Delhi to a five star hotel only; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Hotel Review and Survey Committee has not yet completed its task and submitted its report to Government. It is, therefore, not possible at this stage to state what recommendations the Committee will make in respect of the Ashoka Hotel.

‡ RETURN OF FR. FERRER

266. SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have permitted Fr. Ferrer till recently working in Manmad (Maharashtra) to return to India; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Before, Fr. Ferrer left he was given an understanding that should be wish to do so, there would be no difficulty

in his returning to India and working in any State, other than Maharashtra where he would be acceptable. Since then a request has been received from him for a visa for working in Andhra Pradesh or Gujarat. The request is being considered in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

(b) Government saw no objection to his being allowed to come back to work in any State where he would be acceptable.

12 NOON

RE REPLY GIVEN TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 219 ON THE 24TH JULY, 1968

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Madam, with your permission, I would like to make a small correction in the reply given by me to Unstarred Question No. 219 answered on 24-7-1968. Reply given to part (a) and (b) of the Unstarred Question should be read as reply to part (a) of the question. The reply to part (b) is that 'When asked whether we had received reports that Sheikh Abdullah was receiving large sums of money from sources inimical to India, I did not confirm or deny having received such reports'. The reply to part (c) stands as it was given previously.

REFERENCE TO REMARKS MADE BY SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA ON 29th JULY, 1968 ON THE WORKING OF MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : Madam, during the discussion on the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Bill on 29th July in this House, Shri M. P. Bhargava stated that it was a sad commentary on the working of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, who were responsible for arranging the business of the two Houses that the Bill, though introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 30th of April was not given priority on the Budget session even though the Lok Sabha sat up to the 18th of May. He further stated that consequently the Bill could not be passed by Rajya Sabha even though that House adjourned on the 22nd of May, 1968.

I would like to clarify in this connection that the Lok Sabha adjourned after the Budget session on the 10th May and

‡ Transferred from 23rd July, 1968.

† Transferred from 25th July, 1968.