

been put forward and an appeal has been made. If they are received favourably by the Powers which have interests in Congo, certainly the situation will improve.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if it is a fact that the Indian troops in the Congo are itching for a showdown in the Congo and our Government also favour a similar development there? If so, has this been brought to the notice of the UN?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Indian armed forces are not allowed to indulge in the practice of itching.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether these proposals put forward by the United Nations Secretary-General include any provision for safeguarding the security of political prisoners, including Mr. Gizenga?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I should imagine this has nothing to do with those proposals. That is a separate matter entirely.

Shri Sonavane: What is the number of our military personnel in the Congo and how long have they been there? Have persons remaining there for long been brought over and fresh personnel sent in their place?

Mr. Speaker: Part of it has been answered already.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The number has changed constantly. I cannot give the exact number at this moment.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Arising out of the answer to part (c) of the question, is there any truth in certain press reports to the effect that some of our personnel in the Congo will be withdrawn from that part of the world and deployed for UN purposes in West Irian? If that is an indication of the situation easing in Congo, is Government thinking of commencing a phased withdrawal of our troops in the Congo?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The assumption in the first part of the ques-

tion is wrong. There is no proposal that our army will be deployed in West Irian.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Apparently, Sir, there is some difference of opinion on the Treasury Benches, between the Prime Minister and the Minister of State.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No difference. Some officers have been withdrawn, six or seven, from the Gaza unit, I do not think from the Congo. It may be they may withdraw one or two officers, they are both under the UN, but that does not affect our forces there.

Shri Hem Barua: May I make a personal explanation.

Mr. Speaker: Nothing has been said needing a personal explanation.

Shri Hem Barua: My question was based on world press reports. I am mentioning this lest I be misunderstood for the "itching of our troops".

Mr. Speaker: There is no question.

Flats for Diplomats

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*619.	}	Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
		Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
		Shri S. C. Samanta:
		Shri Subodh Hansda:
		Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
	}	Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign diplomats in Delhi have to pay exorbitant house rents;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have taken decision to construct air-conditioned flats for diplomats; and

(c) if so the estimated cost of construction of these flats?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon) (a) The rent payable in each case is settled by a foreign diplomat with the Landlord direct. In most capitals of the world, the diplomats generally offer higher rents

than those prevalent in a locality. Delhi is no exception to this rule.

(b) and (c). No decision in this regard has been taken so far.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: In view of the fact that there is a general complaint all over Delhi about the house rents being too high, may I know whether the Government is thinking in terms of checking this rise in house rents by some legislation?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There is already legislation, the Rent Control Act of 1958. If after five years of the construction of the house, exorbitant rents are charged, the tenant can take legal action against the landlord.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Is it a fact that the so-called rent racket has permeated high Government officials, many of whom have their own houses in Delhi which they do not occupy but let them out at high rents while they themselves keep on occupying cheap government bungalows?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different question.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया कि जिस तरह से बाकी कैपिटल में किराये ज्यादा हैं उसी तरह से दिल्ली में भी ज्यादा हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने पता लगाया है कि दिल्ली में अन्य राज्यों के कैपिटल से ज्यादा रेंट चार्ज किया जाता है और एक्जोबिटेंट रेंट चार्ज किया जाता है, यदि हाँ तो इसको कम करने के क्या उपाये किये जा रहे हैं ?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: They need not compare rents in Delhi with other countries. But, we know that the rents charged are exorbitant. As I have pointed out in the answer to the question, it is a matter between the landlord and the tenant. The law provides a safeguard for the tenant; but most of the diplomats do not want to take legal action for various reasons.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: How is it that the Rent Control Act is not applied in the case of these flats which are called luxury flats and where the owners are reaping windfall rents by letting them out?

Mr. Speaker: The law is there. For five years, the law is not applicable for a new construction.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The answer which the Prime Minister has given is that the matter has not yet been considered. May I know whether, in view of the fact that we are already so short in our building programme for our own people, there is any proposal which is afoot to consider this matter at all?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: To consider which matter?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Of constructing flats for the diplomats.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know in what context my colleague said that. But, such proposals are always being considered. I hope that within a few months the construction will start. (Interruptions).

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमान् क्या किसी विदेशी दूतावास ने आपके पास इस तरह से अधिक किराये के बारे में शिकायत की है, यदि की है, तो उस पर सरकार की तरफ से क्या कार्रवाई की गई है ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : कोई ज्यादा की शिकायत नहीं की है। लेकिन बातचीत में कभी कहा है।

श्री राम सेवक यादव : प्रधान मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि स्लैट्स के कंस्ट्रक्शन का फैसला किया जा चुका है। यदि किया जा चुका है, तो उस पर कितना खर्चा आएगा, क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ ?

श्री अध्यक्ष महोदय : यहाँ तक नहीं पहुँचे हैं कि कितना खर्चा आएगा।

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू: ये तो हमेशा बनते रहते हैं, यह कोई नया सवाल नहीं है। मेरे ख्याल में हम यहां तक नहीं पहुंचे हैं कि खर्च का एस्टीमेट बन सके।

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What did he say?

Mr. Speaker: This has not reached that stage where an assessment of the expenditure that has to be incurred could have been considered so far.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The Prime Minister said that it continues to be constructed. But up till now I have never heard of flats being constructed for diplomats.

Mr. Speaker: These considerations are always there.

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : ये विदेशी राजनयिक अधिकारी जो इतने मंहगे भाड़े पर मकान लेते हैं, क्या ये इनको सीधे मकान मालिकों से बातचीत करके लेते हैं या गवर्नमेंट के माध्यम से किराये पर लेते हैं? यदि ये सीधे बातचीत करके लेते हैं तो फिर इस मंहगे किराये पर उन्हें क्यों शिकायत होनी चाहिये?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जवाब दिया जा चुका है कि टैनेट और लॉडलार्ड सीधे बातचीत करते हैं।

Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey: May I know what is the total income of all the flats allotted to foreign diplomats?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सवाल लिख कर दिया जाए तो उसका जवाब देना चाहिये। मैंने सवाल किया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह जरूरी नहीं होता है हर वक्त। कभी किसी वक्त भूल भी हो जाती है।

Prices of Cotton

*620. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply

given to Unstarred Question No. 477 on the 2nd May, 1962 and state the precise nature of decisions taken by Government with regard to removal of ceilings on the prices of Indian cotton and the appointment of a Commission to promote production of cotton in the country?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): The Government have already announced their decision not to remove the ceilings on the prices of Indian cotton but to increase them with effect from the 1st September, 1962, i.e., the beginning of the new cotton season. The ceiling of the basic variety "Jarilla Fine 25/32", has been increased by Rs. 35 per quintal (Rs. 125 per candy) with corresponding increases in the ceilings of the other varieties of Indian cotton.

As regards the appointment of a Cotton Commission for promoting production of cotton in the country, there is at present no such proposal under contemplation of the Government. This question may be referred to the Ministry of Food & Agriculture.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: From the statement it appears that the Government have not been able to remove the ceiling prices of Indian cotton but they are going to increase the prices. I would like to know the consideration that weighed with Government in not removing the ceiling.

Shri Manubhai Shah: By removing the ceiling the prices will rise so much that they will affect the basic commodities like cloth for the general masses of the people; and de-control of prices would not have also led to any increase in production *pro rata*. Thereafter, after considering all the aspects of the issue we decided this, and raised the ceiling by Rs. 125 per candy.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether Government has considered that by not removing the ceiling there would be a set-back in the