

would not like to give an assurance as to when they will be settled.

Shri Thanu Pillai: In answer to part (a) it was said that the people who have come from Ceylon have come with their belongings. Is the Government aware that a large number of them were ordinary workers and they have come with nothing to India?

Mr. Speaker: They have no belongings

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Indian nationals there are of many types: merchants, domestic servants, petty shop-keepers, barbers and people in such like employment. I can very well understand that many of them are not what might be called well off.

Shri Thanu Pillai: In such cases, will they be rehabilitated by the Government of India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Government of India does not normally have rehabilitation schemes for persons coming back from other countries. We do try to help them if we can. But, we cannot undertake responsibility as, for instance, we did in the case of Partition of Punjab. We cannot take that type of responsibility. We help, if we can, individuals concerned.

Shri Punnoose: Am I to understand that the figures given do not include the thousands of Indians who may have been Indian citizens or people who have been in Ceylon for long years and who have come back to India because they were denied jobs or because their visas were over? They have come thousands of people. Does the figure include those Indians also and may I know whether any rehabilitation measures have been taken for them?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not completely heard the hon. Member's question.

Mr. Speaker: Does the figure include every category of Indians who come away from Ceylon?

Shri Punnoose: Several thousands have come back to Madras and Kerala.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I know quite a number have come back to Kerala. Thus is a matter entirely in law in the competence of the Ceylon Government, that is, to deal with the non-nationals who have come here. As I said, the Government may deal with them in any way. Because of great distress or no distress, we try to deal with these matters. We cannot challenge their right in the case of non-nationals, just as no one can challenge our right to deal with non-nationals in India.

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that a large number of people are being more or less compelled, being obliged to leave Ceylon—not that they wanted to leave, but they had to leave under the orders of the Government—would the Government consider the advisability of instructing our Labour Exchanges and also aiding the State Governments to give them special preference in finding employment for them when they come back?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think that has been done.

Shri Thanu Pillai: No, Sir.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We have communicated to the local Governments,—I know that—to give them facilities and help so far as they can, and the Labour Exchanges, etc. Whether it has been implemented to any large extent, I do not know.

Ashoka and Janpath Hotels

*260. { **Shri V. P. Nayar:**
Shri Khushwaqt Rai:
Shri H. C. Mathur:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the amount charged per day for each category of rooms in Ashoka Hotel and Janpath Hotel?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): A statement giving the tariff of the Ashoka Hotel and Hotel Janpath is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix I, annexure No 78].

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is a fact that when it is difficult to get rooms in other first class hotels in the city, there are always vacant rooms in the Ashoka Hotel and if so, what are the reasons?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is a very big hotel and I won't be surprised if occasionally rooms are vacant.

Some Hon. Members: Not occasionally; but always.

Shri Ranga: A large number of rooms are always vacant

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Government are aware that in the Ashoka Hotel, which, as the hon. Minister said is a very big hotel, the bearers attending the rooms have to climb down the flight of steps from the fourth floor for every order of each customer and most of the customers are dissatisfied with the delay in service? Have service lifts been provided?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There are service lifts in every floor.

Mr. Speaker: This question relates to the charges. The general administration of the Ashoka Hotel is not the question at issue

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In the statement laid on the Table of the House, there are some Deluxe suites and Special Deluxe suites with a charge of Rs 200 and 250 per day. Could we know what is the occupation ratio, for how many days in a month these are occupied?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Does the hon Member refer to the luxury suites? A separate question may be asked. But, very often these suites are in occupation

Shri Tyagi: May I know what is the average loss per day, these days, in maintaining this luxury of Ashoka Hotel?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Till the Profit and Loss accounts are finally prepared

at the end of the year, it is impossible to categorically say anything about the financial position of the hotel.

Shri Tyagi: It is surprising that the Government does not know the daily loss incurred in this and how many rooms are occupied and how many are vacant. They should know

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There is a certain income every month and certain adjustments have also to be made. I am surprised that an Ex-Finance Minister should put a question like this

Shri Tyagi: What is the average daily expenditure on the Hotel?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The total annual expenditure is...

Shri Tyagi: I want the daily average

Shri Anil K. Chanda: You can divide it by 365. The annual expenditure estimated to be Rs. 45 lakhs.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a cross-examination

Shri Tyagi: Why should matters be minced? The House must be told what is the daily loss they are incurring from day to day

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The hon. Member is speaking with less than his usual clarity.

Shri Tyagi: Because the loss is very great

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If I may say so, it is quite extraordinary to judge of the success or non-success of a hotel on some odd daily figure. There is no doubt—I do not know the figure—there has thus far been continuing and considerable loss. The Hotel was started, I believe, 7 or 8 months ago when it was incomplete, built partly. It is still being built. It is not yet built. It was started, as the House probably knows, more especially for the U.N.E.S.C.O. conference when 1200 delegates came. It was built with great speed. The staff

was also engaged with great speed. Because of that speed, the staff, unfortunately, could not be adequately trained. There have been, I believe, as one hon. Member pointed out, complaints about service. These are being improved. I cannot say exactly what the financial position of the hotel will be later. But, there is no doubt that a Hotel like that had become a necessity in Delhi. As a result of the coming into existence of that hotel, the other hotel charges have gone down. Otherwise, there was no competition at all. It has been certainly a great convenience to a large number of people coming from foreign countries. For instance, I believe, in the course of a month or two, the whole hotel has been engaged by one party. One big party coming in a big liner engages the whole hotel. I cannot say what will happen in the future. I believe that a hotel like this, in Delhi, ought to be certainly not a financial burden, it ought to be a financial success. One must give it some time to settle down. I am told that it has been booked from the next October to the next February.

Ambar Charkha

*261. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether the Ambar Charkha scheme has so far provided any additional employment, and

(b) whether Government have examined the feasibility of its projected large-scale investment on this scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) Yes, Sir, the Ambar Charkha programme has provided employment to about 73,000 persons upto the end of June, 1957.

(b) Before the project was approved, a pilot scheme was undertaken with a view to test the potentialities of the Ambar Charkha and its economic aspects. The reactions of handloom weavers to the yarn produced

were also studied. Subsequently, the Ambar Charkha Enquiry Committee was appointed with a special Economic Sub-Committee to examine the Technical and economic aspects in detail, based on the findings of the various technological laboratories which had tested the spinning unit as well as the results of the pilot project. It was decided to introduce 75,000 Ambar Charkhas during 1956-57. A review of the working of the programme was made to determine its size for 1957-58. An additional 180,000 Ambar Charkhas have been sanctioned. Half the fund for expansion was provided in the first instance. The balance was to be sanctioned after a review in September, 1957.

Government have throughout adopted a cautious approach to this project and have evaluated achievements at frequent intervals before sanctioning further expansion.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know what progress has been achieved so far regarding the target of 300 million yards of cloth ear-marked for ambar yarn, and whether such progress is a good augury for the future?

Shri Satish Chandra: The number of ambar charkhas which have been manufactured so far is about 98,500. The production of cloth has been a little more than 2 million yards, but as the programme gains momentum, it is expected that 300 million yards could be produced by 1960-61 by introducing 8 lakh ambar charkhas.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the closure of certain mills, would it not be desirable to divert part of the attention of Government from the ambar yarn problem to the other problems?

Shri Satish Chandra: The total production of cloth in textile mills has also been increasing gradually.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: May I know why Government must be weavers and hotel keepers? Can they not do administration better?

Shri C. D. Pande: What is the average earning per day of a person who plies the ambar charkha?