

Mr. Speaker: That is all right. But the same questions are asked again..

Shri V. Raju: The same question does not arise.

Mr. Speaker: If a specific question is asked and a specific answer is given, that is all right. On the other hand, hon. Members want to convince by their reasons that the policy should be changed.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I only wanted to ask as to how many non-officials have been allowed.

Shri Hem Barua: I wanted to ask about the arrest of the spiritual head.

Mr. Speaker: So far as the hon. lady Member is concerned, she did not ask that question.

Next question.

Ashoka Hotel

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Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri Assar:
Shri Morarka:
 *384. { **Shri Kushwaqt Rai:**
Shri Jadhav:
Shri Tantia:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the capital expenditure incurred so far for Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi; and-

(b) how much money has been spent so far, and estimated as recurring annual expenditure?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The total expenditure incurred up to 30th June 1957 amounts to Rs. 2:38 crores.

(b) The expenditure on running the Hotel for the year ending September 1957 is estimated at about Rs. 23 lakhs, against which a sum of about Rs. 17 lakhs has been spent up to the end of June 1957. In addition a provision of about Rs. 22 lakhs will have to be made for depreciation, interest on

loan, house tax and payments due on the lease-hold land.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Can the Government give us some figures about the total expenditure incurred on the purchase of furniture, fittings, upholstery and similar things and the proportion of foreign purchase in regard to them?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The proportion of foreign purchase is indeed very meagre. I have got all the figures with me but it will be a pretty long statement; but, if it is needed I can lay it on the Table.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if it is a fact that Swedish cooks have been employed for service in this Hotel while we have quite good cooks serving in all other hotels; and, if so, are they being allowed to send out their salaries etc. in the form of foreign exchange?

Shri Anil K Chanda: I am afraid I have not got the detailed information about all the servants in the Hotel; but there are some foreign people on contract basis for special purposes. As soon as our own people are trained up, they will be released.

An Hon. Member: That is the limit, Sir.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the sumptuous character of this Hotel, may I know if Government will consider the advisability of changing the name of the Hotel to Jehangir Hotel or so because Ashoka was a very abstemious person?

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know what has happened to the amount that was invested by the Jam Saheb and others; have they been returned?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There is no question of returning any money. It is a public company and about Rs. 15 lakhs worth of shares are held by private persons and Rs. 85 lakhs by Government.

Shri Kamal Singh: May I know if it is contemplated to let out this Hotel on contract basis?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: No, Sir.

Shri Jadhav: May I know whether the Government is contemplating....

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Sir, there has been a loss of thousands of rupees. Therefore, it is necessary that hon. Members should ask questions.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour cannot be consumed by a single question. There are other methods. I have been repeatedly saying that. What can I do?

So far as those hon. Members whose names appear on the Order Paper are concerned, I would request them to get up as early as possible. I am not going to request them to come up and put questions. The hon. Members should stand up before others who have tabled questions. I certainly look all round.

Shri Morarka: Not this side also.

Mr. Speaker: I am looking at this side also. I thought that this side need not put questions.

Shri Jadhav: May I know whether the Government is contemplating the disposal of the Hotel as it is running at a loss?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There is no such proposal before Government. May I submit that when a big commercial enterprise of this nature is started, it does not begin to give dividends from the first year?. It takes a little time.

Shrimati Maniben Patel: rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is a little too late.

Korea

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*385 { **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**
Shri Wodeyar:
Shri S. N. Dwivedi:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is represented on the U. N. team of observers on the cease fire line in Korea; and

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the U. S. Government has proposed to equip South Korea with (modern) weapons?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) No; Sir.

(b) The Government of India have no official information. They have, however, seen press reports on this.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether Government instructed our Ambassador in U. S. A. to make an official enquiry from the U. S. Government in this connection?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I am unable to say; I require notice.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if Government has been appraised of any statement from the Peoples Republic of China regarding the perturbation that Government feels on account of the gravity of the situation created in Korea and, if so, what steps are being contemplated?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I do not have this information. As I have said we have seen Press reports. We have no official information about what the hon. Member says.

Shri C. D. Pande: Has Government any information that in North Korea, the Soviet Government and the Chinese Government have also made some changes so that there is some trouble there?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: We have seen Press reports alleging that this is so.

Evacuee Property Rules

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*387. { **Shri Bahadur Singh:**
Shri M. C. Jain:

Will the **Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 252 on the 22nd May, 1957 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that third party claims against evacuees were