

कनाडा मानसरोवर के लिये तीर्थ-यात्री

७०३. { श्री भगत बर्षाण :
श्री नवल प्रसादकर :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करें कि :

(क) इस वर्ष तिब्बत स्थित कैलाश मानसरोवर की तीर्थ-यात्रा के लिये कतने भारतीय तीर्थ-यात्री गये ;

(ख) क्या इन तीर्थ-यात्रियों को अपनी तीर्थ-यात्रों के दौरान व कुछ कठिनाइयों का सामन करना पड़ा ; और

(ग) उन कठिनाइयों को दूर करने के लिए तथा भविष्य में उनके घटित न होने देने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री के सभा-सचिव (श्री सारत अलॉ जॉ) : (क) ६३५

(ख) और (ग) कोई ऐ टि ग्राम शिक्षायात नहों रही है ले केन अमुविषा होने के जो दो-एक मामले हमारे सामने आए थ, उनकी और हमने चीन लोक गणराज्य सरकार का ध्यान, उनके राजदूतावास के द्वारा आ-कषित किया था और यह प्रार्थना की थी कि वे ऐसा प्रबन्ध कर दें के इस तरह की घटनाएं भविष्य में न हों।

Allotment of Government Quarters

*704. Shri Rajendra Singh: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Government quarters in Delhi have not been allotted for occupations and they are lying vacant for the past several months; and

(b) if so, the total number of such quarters and the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). 254 quarters are lying unallotted as they require extensive repairs.

High Commissioner, New Zealand

*705. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that New Zealand has decided to establish direct relations with India by opening a High Commissioner's Office in New Delhi?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): Yes, Sir. The New Zealand High Commission has in fact been established in India.

Indian Firms

*706. { Shri Wodeyar:
Shri V. C. Shukla:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the question of setting up specialised organisation for supplying to the interested parties abroad reports on the status and credit-worthiness of Indian firms;

(b) if so, broad details of the proposal and the stage at which it rests presently; and

(c) the media which is supplying such information to interested parties abroad at present?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The Government of India are exploring the possibilities of encouraging the growth of organisations which will report on the status and creditworthiness of firms engaged in foreign trade.

(c) Chambers of Commerce, Bankers of the firm concerned, and one or two private organisations.

Memorial Ashram in San Francisco

*707. { Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Kunhan:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Headquarters of the Ghadar Party in San Francisco was

handed over to the Indian Consul in San Francisco in 1948 along with the other assets and cash balances of the Party?

(b) whether at the time of handing over the building and assets, the Indian Consul had assured the Ghadar Party veterans that a Memorial Ashram will be set up with the funds handed over, by the Government of India; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Government of India to carry out the assurance?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Yes, Sir. The Headquarters of the Ghadar Party was handed over to the Indian Consul-General in 1948 and not in 1948. Assets transferred consisted of an old building, an old hand-operated printing machine and odd pieces of furniture that were in the building. No cash balances were transferred.

(b) No assurance of any kind was given by or on behalf of the Government of India to the Ghadar Party at the time when the property was handed over to Government in 1948. But subsequently in deference to the wishes of the Ghadar Party, Government had agreed to build a memorial hall on the site.

(c) After examining various proposals, the Government of India sanctioned an amount of \$ 82,866/- in 1957 to construct a memorial and a few flats. In view of the financial stringency and the need for conserving foreign exchange, the constructional programme had to be deferred.

Workcharged Staff of the C.P.W.D.

***798. Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 710 dated the 27th February, 1958 and state the progress made regarding transfer of certain categories of work-charged staff of the Central Public

Works Department to the regular establishment?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Government of India have issued three orders on 26th March, 21st May and 6th November, 1958, defining the general procedure and categories of workcharged posts to be brought on to the regular establishment, setting up an Ad-hoc Committee of Officers for implementing the announcements made in the Lok Sabha on 14-8-1957 and laying down the principles regarding counting of service for pension, seniority, etc. of workcharged staff to be transferred to the regular establishment. For sometime past, the Ad-hoc Committee is actively engaged in checking the records of Divisional Offices with a view to screening individual workers for being brought on to the regular establishment. It is hoped that forms of option, either for continuing in the workcharged establishment or for transfer to the regular establishment, will be issued to individual workers shortly.

Tea Council in U.K.

***799. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Tea Council has been set up in the U.K.; and

(b) if not, why?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A Tea Council would not necessarily have the effect of increasing imports of Indian Tea into the U.K. Tea Councils are formed for joint propaganda by producers and the local tea trade for increased consumption of tea in a particular country. In U.K. the per capita consumption of tea is already the highest in the world. The absence of a Tea Council in the U.K., therefore, is no serious handicap to Indian exports.