

Central Excise Department and state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the matter of construction; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) Government were considering construction of staff quarters at Sambalpur and Cuttack. No site could be selected at the former place, while a site was selected at Cuttack last year but had to be given up as the Town Planner had objected to its use for residential quarters. An alternative site could not be selected so far.

(b) Further action on the project has been deferred for the present due to the budgetary position.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether this scheme will be extended to other districts of the Orissa State?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: This scheme itself has been for the present kept in abeyance. The question of further extension does not arise.

Shri Sanganna: May I know which are the categories of staff for whom these quarters are constructed?

Mr. Speaker: The whole question is kept in abeyance. Is it the categories of staff that the hon. Member wants?

Shri Sanganna: Yes, Sir. Categories.

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): It is for the non-gazetted government staff.

Shri Mahanty: I understand from the reply given by the hon. Minister that the process of building staff quarters at Cuttack was pending because the Town Planner did not recommend the site. Is it not a fact that the whole establishment of the Town Planner along with the Town Planner has been abolished in the meantime? I want to know whether the Government followed up that matter and whether the Government enquired of the Government of Orissa from time to time in this regard? Is it a fact that these employees are

being put to great hardship due to the lack of accommodation in Cuttack?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is undoubtedly a realisation on our part that Government employees, particularly in the non-gazetted sector, find a great deal of difficulty in finding accommodation in far away places, and that is why we have given high priority for certain places for construction of houses. Whether the particular Town Planner or the Town Planning Officer is still there or not or whether changes have occurred since his report which was adverse so far as we are concerned, is a matter over which I cannot speak today without further information. But as my young colleague mentioned, the whole scheme is subjected to review in view of the present budgetary position; but I can give this assurance that in spite of the present budgetary position, do propose to go ahead as early as possible with the question of construction of staff quarters for the non-gazetted staff in those areas where quarters are not available, and we shall perhaps find out if there is a new Town Planning Officer in Cuttack who will be more reasonable than the one who has now apparently gone away.

#### Western Zonal Council

\*716. Shri Mahagaonkar: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Western Zonal Council has not been inaugurated yet, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) The dates proposed for the meeting did not suit the States because of their pre-occupation with the general elections and sessions of the State Legislatures. The council will meet in the near future.

Shri Mahagaonkar: May I know when the next meeting of this Council will be held?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): Presumably within a month.

Shri Khadilkar: May I know whether the inauguration of the Western Zonal Council has been postponed in order to give time to the Chief Ministers of the States of Bombay and Mysore to arrive at some settlement regarding Belgaum and other border disputes?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I will be glad if it helps that process

#### Import of Steel

\*717. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total tonnage of imported steel received in our ports during 1956-57,

(b) whether it is a fact that certain Government departments for which the steel had been originally intended, declined during 1956-57 to accept delivery;

(c) if so, what was the tonnage of steel that was so declined and the reasons thereof,

(d) whether it is a fact that the said steel that had been declined was given over for free sale by the Iron and Steel Controller at Calcutta and also in other places,

(e) what was the amount of loss suffered by Government in the course of the said transactions, and

(f) whether an enquiry will be made into the matter?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) 1,914,476 tons

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Approximately 25,000 tons

(d) Yes, but at a later stage

(e) Nil

(f) Does not arise

If I may add, Sir, with your permission, in answer to part (c), change in design and late arrival were among the reasons for declining to accept.

#### Short Notice Question and Answer Admission to Delhi Colleges

S.N.Q. No. 6. { Shri Vasudevan Nair:  
Shri Easwara Iyer:  
Shri V. P. Nayar:

Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that a very large number of students have been denied admission to Delhi Colleges;

(b) if so, their number, and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to remedy this situation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 97]

Shri Vasudevan Nair: From the statement I find that 8,800 students were refused admission to different colleges and universities I would like to know whether there is an unusual difficulty this year with regard to the admission to the colleges and if so, how does it compare with last year's position?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: This is a recurring difficulty. The number of students who seek admission continues to be growing and it is not possible for the existing colleges to cope with the situation. This year particularly, a large number of students have been refused admission.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I want to know what is the total number of students who have passed from schools and qualified themselves for education in the university last year and how many of them have been able to secure admission to the various colleges and to the university?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: I am afraid I cannot give the break-up, but I can give him the general situation with regard to the number of students on the rolls. There are 6,867 students on