

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). The Ministry of Works and Housing is not aware whether or not the Managing Director of the Housing Corporation of India (Private) Ltd. has shifted his headquarters to Delhi. He had approached this Ministry for financial assistance from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation for construction of houses for the low and middle income groups. The Housing and Urban Development Corporation can consider giving financial assistance only to Statutory Corporations etc. As such, the request of the firm cannot be entertained by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation.

Meeting between General Yahya Khan and Prime Minister

6675. **SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY :
SHRI GANGA REDDY :**

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gen. Yahya Khan has expressed his desire to have a dialogue with Prime Minister on Bangla Desh issue ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the proposal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Government have seen reports that Gen. Yahya Khan had said he was prepared to meet the Prime Minister.

(b) The Bangla Desh issue is a question of the refusal by the military rulers of Pakistan to recognise the legitimate aspirations of the people of East Bengal, and to seek to suppress these aspirations by brute force. It is thus an issue between the military rulers of Pakistan and the already elected representatives of the people of East Bengal. Any suggestion to have an Indo-Pakistan dialogue on the Bangla Desh issue is wholly irrelevant and is obviously an attempt to make it seem an Indo-Pakistan dispute, which it is not.

Representation from MES Employees of Udhampur regarding Hard Station Allowance

6676. **SHRI A. N. VIDYALANKAR :**
Will the Minister of **DEFENCE** be pleased to

state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received a representation from the MES employees stationed at Udhampur (Jammu and Kashmir State) for payment of "Hard station allowance" in view of very high cost of living at this station ;

(b) whether at the time of withdrawal of 'Field Service Concession' in the case of these employees, an assurance was given that civilian employees of all the Defence installations of allowance in order to compensate them ; and

(c) how Government propose to meet the demand of the employees ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) No such representation has been received from the MES employees stationed at Udhampur ; however, the MES workers' Union (Arca Committee) Ambala which also seeks to represent the grievances of the MES employees at Udhampur, passed a resolution at their Annual Conference on 8/12 October, 1969, demanding payment of "Hard Station Allowance" to the MES civilian employees at Udhampur, in lieu of the field service concessions which were withdrawn from them w. e. f. 1st March, 1968. A copy of this resolution was forwarded by the Union for action, to this Ministry, and to the Army Headquarters.

(b) There was no such assurance.

(c) The following steps which had been taken earlier by the Government to alleviate the hardship caused to these employees due to withdrawal of field service concessions were regarded as adequate :—

(i) Drawal of half free rations for one year from 1.7.68 and quarter free ration for one year from 1.7.69.

(ii) Waiver of rent for tents in their occupation subject to certain conditions.

Therefore these demands are not tenable.

Alleged Charges against Senior Officers of Ambala Cantonment Board for Corruption, Embezzlement and misuse of power

6677. **SHRI A. N. VIDYALANKAR :**
Will the Minister of **DEFENCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cantonment Board Workers and a section of local Press of Ambala