

matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The suspension of train service beyond Sonaili Station as a result of which a large number of passengers were stranded at the Katihar Station.”

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Commencing from 28th July, 1957, the rivers crossing the railway line on the Siliguri-Katihar section started touching the danger level and even rose above it in some cases. On Bridge No. 90 between Sonaili and Jhaua stations, the water level exceeded the danger mark by 8" on 6th August, 1957; Bridge No. 93 in the same section was also declared unsafe on 7th August, 1957. Running of trains beyond Katihar had, therefore to be suspended.

Through-communication on this section was, however, restored at 13.00 hours on 10th August, 1957 when trains were allowed to run during day light hours only. From 12th August, night running of goods trains was permitted and night running of passenger trains also was expected to have resumed from yesterday (13th) night.

During this period *viz.*, from 6th to 10th August, 1957 only a limited train service was maintained between Katihar and Siliguri and nearly 60 trains were cancelled.

Many passengers, who commenced their journeys prior to the interruption of communication were held up at Siliguri and Katihar. These passengers were offered refund of fares for the untravelled portion of their journeys or in the alternative to return to their stations of origin without paying the fares for the return journey. Those passengers, who were marooned owing to interruption of communication on either side were given free food and were provided alternative modes of transport wherever possible at railway expense.

The approximate number of passengers estimated to have been held up at Katihar are detailed below:—

on 6-8-57	1,400
on 7-8-57	2,000
on 8-8-57	2,500
on 9-8-57	1,000
on 10-8-57	600

The refund of fares for untravelled portions of journeys was granted to 2,167½ passengers amounting to Rs. 17,225.

The tickets of 604 passengers had also been endorsed for return to station of origin.

DEMANDS* FOR GRANTS

MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the discussion of the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Works, housing and Supply. As the House is aware, four hours have been allotted for this Ministry. I have already received a number of cut motions. Hon. Members who want to speak will pass on chits indicating their cut motions within fifteen minutes to the Table Office. The time limit will be 15 minutes even for movers of cut motions and 20 minutes, if necessary, for leaders of groups. At what time shall I call the hon. Minister to reply to the debate?

The Minister of Works Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): I may need about an hour and, if necessary, my colleague will intervene for about 10 or 15 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Between them they may take one hour. As there are a number of hon. Members who want to speak, I will give each hon. Member 15 minutes whether he is a leader or non-leader. I will now call Shri Easwara Iyer.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura):
The hon Speaker has given me an assurance that he will give me an opportunity to speak. Since our hon. Prime Minister is also here now, I want an opportunity to give my views to solve the question of Punjab.

Mr. Speaker: Not today. When the discussion on the Home Ministry comes, he will be given an opportunity.

**DEMAND No 92—MINISTRY OF WORKS,
HOUSING AND SUPPLY**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 32,07,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958 in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

DEMAND No 93—SUPPLIES

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 1,52,33,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Supplies'."

DEMAND No 94—OTHER CIVIL WORKS

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 12,05,47,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1958, in respect of 'Other Civil Works'."

**DEMAND No 95—STATIONERY AND
PRINTING**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 4,02,37,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges

which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

**DEMAND No 96—MISCELLANEOUS
DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE
UNDER THE MINISTRY OF WORKS,
HOUSING AND SUPPLY**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 52,02,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

**DEMAND No 132—DELHI CAPITAL
OUTLAY**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 4,27,69,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

**DEMAND No 133—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON
BUILDINGS**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 2,67,59,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Buildings'."

**DEMAND No 134—OTHER CAPITAL OUT-
LAY OF THE MINISTRY OF WORKS,
HOUSING AND SUPPLY**

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 1,25,86,000 be granted to the

President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply' "

Shri Easwara Iyer (Trivandrum)
Mr Speaker, in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply there is a Central Public Works Department which is responsible for the maintenance of the Central Government buildings, roads, aerodromes etc In that Department, I am to'd, there are about 14,000 industrial workers, whose conditions of service are still in the mud-air They are termed as Work Charged Establishment employees and they have been consistently putting forward their demand that they should be treated as regular employees or regular civil servants I fail to see why this demand cannot be conceded As in other employments they must be entitled to their leave, retirement pensions etc Now, like other employees they are also subjected to the disability of being transferred from one place to another This anomalous distinction is prevailing in spite of the fact that they have been putting forward the demand that they should be having all the amenities of a civil servant There are certain constitutional safeguards so far as a civil servant is concerned For example, there is article 311 of the Constitution which enjoins on the Government that a civil servant should be given a reasonable opportunity to show cause before he is dismissed There are certain other provisions also which are not available to the Work Charged Establishment staff

Regarding the question of medical attendance also their grievances are not met I understand that there are only a few dispensaries and hospitals for looking after their welfare My respectful submission is that they are hardly adequate With respect to medical facilities they have been de-

manding that they should be given the benefit of the Contributory Health Scheme which has been introduced recently for the civil servants I fail to understand why these people should not be given the benefit of this scheme.

With regard to the question of their leave, half pay leave and allowances, their demands, to me, appears just. These are certain minor aspects regarding their conditions of services. The amenities which are available to the civil servants are denied to them because of the fact that their services are not considered on par with those of the civil servants.

Then they have got their most important grievance regarding the question of accommodation. There is absolute shortage in regard to accommodation. Most of these employees are given one room tenements. I am glad to say that when we had an interview with the hon. Minister of Works, Housing, and Supply, he promised that he will view this question with sympathy and provide them with suitable accommodation. But I would refer to the question of accommodation for the employees working in the aerodromes. So far as the aerodromes are concerned, they are situated at a distance from New Delhi. So, the workers who work in the aerodromes must be given suitable accommodation near the place of their work. I hope this factor will be taken into consideration by the Minister.

There is another major grievance that the employees have been putting forward, namely the anomalies in their scales of pay. There are certain anomalies which have been pointed out, in the classification of services. I am told that the officer on special duty, Shri P K Sen, has given a report on the classification of these services into skilled, unskilled and highly skilled services. But the recommendations of this officer have not yet been implemented.

[Shri Easwara Iyer]

It is only desirable that the employees who have been working in this department for a number of years continuously should have some uniformity in their seniority list, at least so far as Delhi is concerned. As for places outside Delhi, there must be a seniority list formed on the basis of zonal systems. Otherwise, certain inequities and discriminatory treatment would arise. If seniority is fixed on the basis of circles, as is the case now, then a person senior-most in one circle might find his seniority being lost when he is transferred to another circle. So, I would suggest that so far as seniority is concerned, there may be uniformity in so far as service in Delhi is concerned; and so far as places outside Delhi are concerned, the zonal system may be adopted, consistent with the circumstances and the nature of the situation.

I now come to the question of reinstatement of persons who have been dismissed from service. There are, I believe, certain persons who have been dismissed on the ground that they had been engaging themselves in political activities. To me, it appears that political ideology should not be a consideration for deciding the continuance or otherwise of an employee in service. The question should be whether he is discharging his duties effectively and with responsibility. The fact that he has political affiliation with or political sympathy for any political party should not be made a ground for victimising the employee. Therefore, I would request the Minister to examine the cases of those employees who have been victimised and who have been claiming reinstatement in service, on merits, and see whether those employees had been discharging their duties effectively and satisfactorily, and if so, to reinstate them.

Mr. Speaker: There is so much to talk about buildings and other things. This is a labour matter, which can be taken up when the Labour Ministry's Demands are taken up.

Shri Easwara Iyer: Certainly, this comes within the purview of the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, each employment may come under this. Even the secretariat work is also a kind of labour.

Shri Easwara Iyer: But the Central Public Works Department comes under this Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, we can introduce everyone of these things into everyone of these Ministries, such as Health, Labour, Education, and so on. So far as this Ministry is concerned, the question of inadequacy of buildings, slum clearance, and so on can be discussed. Of course, I leave it to the hon. Member. Hon. Members can introduce any of the subjects under any of the Ministries.....

Shri Easwara Iyer: I am not confining myself to the question of the workers alone. But the C.P.W.D. comes under this Ministry, and the grievances of the employees there are a vital factor, so far as the economy of this country is concerned.

Mr. Speaker: That is the policy of the Government not to allow any member of the staff of Government to affiliate himself with any particular political party or parties. It is the Home Ministry which has issued the orders, and this Ministry has merely carried out those directions. So, what is the good of catching these people?

Shri K. C. Reddy: May I intervene and say straightway that political considerations or affiliations with any political parties do not govern the dismissal or the retention of any employee?

Shri Easwara Iyer: I am thankful to the Minister for the clarification he has given, so that I may now proceed to the next point.

Shri K. C. Reddy: But that does not mean that Government employees can take active part in politics.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon) After one minute, the Minister may again get up and say something more

Shri Easwara Iyer: I was only putting forward the view that so far as the employees are concerned, their political sympathy or political affiliation should not be made a ground for their dismissal

Mr Speaker: He says it ought not to show outward expression

Shri Easwara Iyer: I mean, by any overt act

Mr. Speaker. Mentally, if he appreciates any philosophy or school of politics, there is no harm

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun) Political leaders must keep away from the employees

Shri Easwara Iyer: I believe that should apply to the hon Member also

The grievances of the employees in the Rashtrapati Bhavan also should be looked into. Although the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply is paying them direct, I believe they are under the direct superintendence of the Military Secretary to the President. I do not know what the terms and conditions of service of those employees are, and I believe, they are in the mid air so far as their terms and conditions of service are concerned. I would request the Minister to see that these employees also are taken directly under his control their conditions of service being dealt with by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply

So far as the housing scheme with the purview of this Ministry is concerned I would respectfully submit that there has been a consistent demand from the industrial workers that there should be some legislation to compel the private employers to contribute towards, or to build, residential quarters for them. Although in the Second Five Year Plan and also in the housing scheme envisaged by this Ministry, it has been stated

that there is a good scheme for the development of quarters for industrial workers, both in the private sector and also in the public sector, yet it is found that the private employers are not in any way interested in providing quarters for the employees, in spite of the fact that Government are coming forward to help them with monetary facilities. This is certainly understandable because the private employers are not in any way interested in building quarters for the workers. They are only interested in filling their pockets. So, some compulsory legislation is absolutely necessary for the purpose of affording relief to these workers employed in the industrial sector

I have to say a few words on the low income housing scheme also. I believe that Government are planning to build houses for the low income groups including government servants and also persons employed in co-operative societies. I am also told that Government are helping co-operative societies of low income group government servants by giving them the necessary monetary aid and also by acquisition of lands. But in spite of this, there is a complete lack of imagination and co-ordination, if I may say so with respect

I am told that some co-operative societies here in New Delhi had been given assistance by way of acquisition of lands, they were asked to deposit the moneys needed for the acquisition. Later on, Government have come forward and acquired 1,100 acres saying that this land was intended for slum clearance and for housing low income groups. That is the plausible excuse that has been put forward. At least if these 1100 acres which had been acquired for the purpose of housing low income groups and for slum clearance had been used for that purpose there would have been no complaint. But when these employees forming themselves into bona fide co-operative societies, with intent to have their own residence, come forward, and they have been

[Shri Easwara-Iyer]

given Government aid also in a *bona fide* manner, my respectful submission is that it is too hard on them to say at the last moment that they will not be given the lands. Of course, I can certainly understand that persons forming themselves into co-operative societies for the purpose of indulging in speculative enterprises should be discouraged. But in the case of *bona fide* co-operative societies, the hon. Minister may take the matter into consideration.

Regarding the question of giving private contracts also, I have a word or two to say. It has been the policy of Government to progressively decrease the giving of private contracts. But we find that this policy has not been implemented. Private contracts, I am told, are on the increase. Private contracts, it is more or less a public secret, have been subject to corrupt practices. I am told there is an unwritten code between the public employees and the private contractors whereby they are given a certain percentage of the contract amount. Such practices should be discouraged.

Shri K. C. Reddy: What is that code?

Shri V. P. Nayar: 5 per cent. to Executive Engineers, 2 per cent. to some others and so on.

Shri Easwara Iyer: Even in respect of minor contracts like, say, electrical installations and wiring of government premises, the contracts are given to private contractors, although such work could effectively be done by departmental employees. If such things are not given to departmental employees, it will impair their efficiency also.

I would only refer to a case which has been reported by the Public Accounts Committee in their 23rd Report (1956-57), page 40, paragraph 124:

"A certain auctioneering firm had been withholding from Government the sale proceeds amount-

ing to Rs. 12,56,604 in respect of auctions of surplus and obsolete stores conducted by it on behalf of Government between 1946 and 1947".

Then they go on to say in paragraph 125:

"In the course of the examination, the Committee were informed by the representatives of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply that the firm in question was one of the well known auctioneering firms functioning in the entire area of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam. The value of the stores handled in the present case was quite colossal and the sum of Rs. 12 lakhs misappropriated was the sale proceeds of 9 auctions".

They further say in paragraph 126:

"The Committee were informed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General that under the standing orders prevalent at that time, the stocks holder could deliver the goods to the purchaser only after the purchaser had deposited the entire cost with the Treasury and produced the Treasury receipt in support".

It cannot be understood how on earth these stocks could be released to the purchaser without getting the money. The procedure is so simple that even a child can understand it. The excuse seems to be something which we cannot understand. The excuse seems to be that this firm of auction purchasers are a respectable firm. But that is no ground for discarding the standing orders and releasing the goods without getting the money.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Respectable cheating agents!

Shri Easwara Iyer: Of course, the partners were punished with imprisonment for 8 years, but Government has

lost Rs. 12 lakhs. The persons responsible for releasing the stocks should be traced and exemplary punishment should be meted out so that such corrupt practices in the department are put an end to

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up. I have been ringing the bell once, twice and thrice. When two minutes remain, I ring the bell so that the hon. Member may not hustle himself. Then I ring two minutes later.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I have so many aspects to cover

Mr. Speaker: There is also another name given by his Group. I have no objection to giving him a little more time—two or three minutes more. But the hon. Member must have an eye on the clock also.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam) In our enthusiasm we forget it

Shri Easwara Iyer: We are not used to keeping an eye on the clock

Mr. Speaker: If not the eye, at least the ear should be kept for me

Shri Easwara Iyer: As regards the work-charged establishment employees, I am told that the Minister has sympathetically listened to their demands. I would only request him to see that when he looks into the question of reinstatement of these victimised employees, he also looks into the question as to whether they could not be made into full-fledged regular employees of the civil service with the benefit of medical facilities under the CHS scheme, because this is a case in which their families could also be benefited. I am sure that the hon. Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, who has also had something to do with the trade union movement, will look into the grievances of the workers with sympathy and redress them.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): There has been some controversy over two of the constructive enterprises that the

Government has undertaken in the recent past. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Government on the success it has achieved in getting these two hotels constructed in the last two years.

It has been well known that for a very long time that many of the hotels in this city have been holding people coming to the city more or less to ransom and charging enormous rents for hiring rooms in their hotels. It was when Shri Gadgil was in charge of the Ministry that we were anxious that Government should go into this business and see that either private enterprise was encouraged or Government itself undertook the construction of one or two hotels big enough, good enough, built and run well enough to become popular among the foreign visitors who are coming to our country.

As is very well known, tourist traffic in many other countries has been catered to very carefully because it has proved to be as profitable as any other industry, and we also wanted to develop it in this country. As you know only too well, one of our colleagues, Shri B. Shiva Rao, was taking the initiative in this matter and trying to bring the importance of this particular topic to the notice of Government. At long last, I am glad the Government decided to construct these two hotels. It has done very well indeed.

But unfortunately some of our friends were wondering whether we did well in constructing such a big hotel as the Ashoka Hotel and in taking the risk of losing so much money month by month, even day by day, as one Member asked the other day. I am glad the Prime Minister has given a very good answer when he said that even apart from its own profit or loss account, one good result it has achieved is to force the other hotels to bring down the charges for their catering as well as hiring of rooms. I agree with him.

In addition to this, I had the opportunity of going to the Ashoka Hotel

[Shri Ranga]

twice during the last two months, and I can bear testimony to the fact that it is certainly an Indian hotel providing all the best possible comforts that the best hotels of other countries are providing. The orchestra there is something to be enjoyed and I do not find its equal anywhere in Delhi. Anyhow, it is something Indian. I would like to ask some of our friends who have been wondering whether we were wise in constructing and running these hotels, to go to friendly countries such as China or Russia. They would find in almost every important city in those Communist countries such hotels run by Government, not so much for the sake of profit as for the sake of pleasing and winning the goodwill of all foreigners who would like to go to their countries.

From all these points of view, I think Government has really done a very good thing indeed in getting these two hotels constructed, and I hope the country would be solidly behind Government so far as these two enterprises are concerned.

I am also prepared to take the question of balance sheet and profit and loss. I was told that no first class hotel either in Delhi or anywhere in the world could be expected to show profit in the first three or four years. Therefore, it is no wonder that we have not been able to show any profit from the Ashoka Hotel. So far as the Janpath Hotel is concerned, we have already begun to pay our way and meet all the charges that can legitimately be expected to be met in the first one or two years of its running.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur)
What are the losses?

Shri Ranga: Having said that I want to express my dissatisfaction with the running of the CPWD. Every Minister, when he comes to be in charge of it, goes on saying that there is nothing wrong with it, in spite of all criticism. The very same Minister when he gives up that portfolio and goes to some other Ministry,

turns round and says. 'Look here, Ranga, you know the CPWD, we all know about it' I want my hon. friend, Shri K C Reddy, who has had all the experiences, the first class experiences that a Minister can be expected to have—having been a labour leader, a Congress leader, a satyagrahi, then a Chief Minister, having been also the Production Minister here—to give some special attention to this particular matter and appoint a high-power committee in the same manner as the Railways have done. You may not call it a Corruption Committee or an Anti-Corruption Committee. But, anyhow, appoint a committee to go into the manner in which the CPWD works and to make suggestions as to how the working of it can be improved so that the reputation of the CPWD can be raised. There is a continuous belief on the part of almost everybody in this country including many of their officers that there is something wrong by way of corruption in this department and in its working and certainly so much of waste. If the reputation of the CPWD is protected here at the Centre, I am sure that its reputation in the States will also come to be improved in the light of the various reform measures that may come to be suggested by the committee that I am suggesting, and adopted by the Central Government.

I am not quite so happy also in regard to their housing policy, rather, in regard to the manner in which they are going on with the execution of their housing policy. I wish to congratulate this Government, a Swaraj Government upon coming to have a housing policy at all, because the previous Government had never had any housing policy. I also wish to thank them for having accepted a suggestion made by several of us. Shri Dasappa comes to my mind particularly because both of us were very particular in the other House in demanding that rural housing should be taken over as one of the part responsibilities of the Central Government.

Unfortunately, what the Government has been doing in this regard is so very inadequate and unsatisfactory, even according to the figures that they themselves have given in the reports that they have placed before us I need not go into all these details, but I would like the Government really to give some special attention to this particular matter in view of the fact that they had made a provision in the Budget for 1957-58 of Rs 12,17,00,000 but during the last 4 or 5 months they have been able to utilise only Rs 114 crores

I do not know whether they have enough money or not But, I would like them to take up this particular matter very seriously I am glad that, taking all the various provisions made under various heads including the NES, the Commerce and Industry and other Ministries, as much as Rs 30 crores is likely to be spent for the development of rural housing in different sections during the next five years But it is not enough, it is only a fee-bite when compared to the other provisions you are making for the development of housing in the cities It is really only an *apologia* and I would like the Government to realise that they are not being fair to the rural people

I would like them to admit it first and after having admitted it, I would like them to remedy this injustice by trying to divert as much of unspent funds as they possibly can come to be in possession of and see that more provision is made for rural housing

I am also glad that they wish to make certain experiments in the development of this rural housing It is very important for this reason It is no good spending Rs 1500 or Rs 2000 upon a house with a thatched roof and afterwards allowing it to be burnt away during summer It is a notorious fact that all over India if you were to take into consideration the total number of houses that are being burnt down during summer, especially in Harijan areas and other backward class people's areas you

would be staggered at the total amount of loss that is being sustained by our masses in our country It is right that the research organisation is going into this matter and is thinking of discovering and popularising some roofing material which would not be combustible and which would be fire-proof so that it would be very handy if and when they provide sufficient funds for the development of rural housing from the public exchequer In addition to that I would like them also to undertake some responsibility in developing fire brigades Without fire brigades what is the earthly use of thinking of constructing any more houses on public account First of all have the fire brigades in order to protect the houses which are already being built by our own people through their own enterprise

Shri K. C. Reddy. Is it not a State responsibility?

Shri Ranga. That is why I said part responsibility After all, for so many other things the States are responsible—when the British were there But after we have come, we have taken the responsibility on ourselves No State would be unwilling to welcome any kind of contribution that the Centre would be willing to make towards their own finances and also to the discharge of their own responsibilities

I come now to the Stores Department and Purchase Missions There has been a lot of misguided information—I think misguided feeling—in regard to the Purchase Missions in Washington and also in London I am in favour of these Missions I also used to have a prejudice against them Then when I had the opportunity of going over there a number of times and enquiring about their work and in the manner in which they have been carrying on their work I became convinced of the need for these Missions But at the same time, I am not convinced that all the other Ministries, especially the Defence Ministry, are co-operating adequately with our own Supply and Purchase

[Shri Ranga]

Missions in canalising their demands through these Missions in order to see that economies could possibly be effected

I had an opportunity of discussing this matter with the hon Minister the other day and he gave me to understand that there is a kind of inter-departmental liaison or consultative machinery or something like that But, I am not quite sure whether this Minister by himself or even a group of Ministers in this Government are strong enough or powerful enough to deal with the Defence Ministry, especially in this regard Therefore, I want a high-power committee, Cabinet Committee, to be specially charged at least with the detailed task of looking into the various orders that the Defence Ministry wishes to place for being fulfilled either in America or in England Otherwise, our funds are likely to be misspent (*Interruption*)

Then, there is the employees question I am glad our friend from the communist side has raised the question of the needs of these work-charged employees I would like the hon Minister and the Ministry to look into the grievances and the day to day needs, the long-standing needs of these employees as well as other employees on their own initiative and not wait until some of us on their own side and others who are in the Opposition find it necessary to encourage those people to state to us what their grievances are and then place them before this Ministry, open their eyes and then begin to make concessions It is their ordinary duty to see to it that these people are not allowed to have all these grievances which they have been suffering for years and years

Shri K. C. Reddy Bounden duty

Shri Ranga I felt unhappy this morning when I read that even the Rashtrapathi Bhawan employees were mentioned as having grievances This

is something extraordinary. Therefore, I hope the hon Minister will look into this matter, and make a good and satisfactory statement today that the grievances of these people will certainly be attended to

I have very little to say I am also in agreement with a suggestion that was made Maybe, I am wrong But, I would like it to be examined whether we should not get rid of the contractors' system Possibly that may be one of ways to help us to get over the state of affairs that are supposed to be prevailing in the CPWD Supposing we get rid of them, then we have got to think of certain things We have to see whether we have the ways and means for investment in all these things The contractors are not fools to go on distributing these courtesies to all these officers for nothing Even if they do it and are entitled to receive their money, there are delays for three or six months It may be because it may not be possible for the Government to pay, the Government may not have money at its disposal I want all these things to be discussed I do not suggest that the hon Minister should here and now, give us an undertaking and say 'I am going to accept your suggestion and this contractors system is going to be dismissed' Once we think of getting rid of the contractors, we have got to think of the way in which we are going to carry on all these works If we are going to get these works done through departmental management, we have have got to examine whether there would be more waste or more economy and whether there would be better work or bad work All these things will have to be discussed I would like all these things to be studied by the Ministry before the Second Plan goes more than half way

Shri Ansar Harvani (Fatehpur) Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon Minister to the thousands of clerks working in Delhi It is one thing to talk of their sufferings in an

academic way, it is quite another thing to come into direct and close contact with their plight. Have you, or have you not, seen, Sir, while coming to this House this mass of humanity pedalling its way to the Secretariat from far off Anand Parbhat and Vinay Nagar. Have you not seen them leaving their rooms in the evening with gloom and distress in their faces, walking with unsteady steps towards their homes with the knowledge that they are going to sleep on the pavement in the night.

We have another picture. We find the senior Government officers staying in Victorian type of mansions with five or six bed rooms and drawing-rooms and other air-conditioned rooms to sleep, when they go back from the Secretariat. We talk of socialist pattern of society and equality among the workers. We demand perfect loyalty and efficiency from these employees. But this is the disparity that we have created in the housing conditions of the officers and clerks. Even in the cloak rooms we find the boards officers and clerks. I hope and trust the hon. Minister will try to remove this disparity between officers and clerks. Some of the mansions of our senior officers will accommodate about a dozen clerks' families. Why should not they be converted into chummies for clerks who come all the way from Shahdara and other places and work here and go back to their houses in the night.

I have known certain families of the clerks who could not talk to their children because they start from their houses early in the morning before their children wake up and when they back they are already asleep. I hope something will be done about it.

Instead of building quarters for our clerks and class IV men, we build huge offices. I can assure you that they would prefer to live in tin sheds and impoverished offices provided they are sure they would not sleep in the rain and heat and wind in the night. Priority should be given to the housing of clerks and class IV staff. This

office mania should be stopped and huge mansions and show pieces should not be erected. With proper planning and perspective, accommodation can be provided even in the city of Delhi to all our clerks. Many of the clerks come from far away places. Our officers have cars and get a fat salary and can afford to live at distant places but they are being accommodated at Safdarjang and Hastings Road while the clerks' colonies are far away from their working places. The Delhi transport is so expensive that they could not afford to pay that charge with their meagre salary. If clerks' quarters and colonies are going to be erected at all, it should be done near the Secretariat. Officers can afford to go to more distant places.

In passing, I will refer to the working of the Government of India Press also. There is a United Press in Old Secretariat. That was under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and most of the publications of that Ministry used to be published in that press, it used to give very good results. I do not know for what reason that press has passed on from the control of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to the centralised Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. Since then, the work has deteriorated and even the output has gone down. Now, some of the more important journals of the Government are to be published in private presses and we see the quality of printing. We are shocked at the manner in which things are printed. There are certain Ministries which require good publicity material, they require attractive layouts. Instead of having centralised control, some of the presses should be handed over to the Ministries concerned. The Lok Sabha should have a press of its own and should not depend upon the Government of India Press. I hope these things will be considered by the hon. Minister.

श्री भक्त बर्दान (गढ़वाल) अध्यक्ष
महोदय, मैं निर्माण, आवास और सम्भरण
मंत्रालय के अपने दोनो माननीय मंत्रियों को

[श्री भक्त दर्शन]

हृदय से बघाई देता हूँ और मुझे आशा है कि पिछले अपने कार्य-काल में उन्होंने जिस योग्यता, परिश्रम और कर्मठता के साथ अपने मंत्रालयों का कार्य कर दिखाया था, इस मंत्रालय में उनके आने के बाद इस मंत्रालय का कार्य और भी अधिक सफलता के साथ चलेगा।

दिल्ली में हम चारों ओर—किसी भी सड़क पर भी हम जायें—ऊंची-ऊंची भग्नावशेषों और विशाल भवनों का निर्माण होते देख रहे हैं। इससे सिद्ध होता है कि यह मंत्रालय और खास तौर पर इसका निर्माण विभाग, बड़ा प्रशासनीय कार्य कर रहा है। आज देश में इतनी गरीबी होती हुए भी दिल्ली में ऊँचे-ऊँचे महल खड़े किये जा रहे हैं—यह मैं आलोचना के दृष्टिकोण से नहीं, बल्कि प्रशास के दृष्टिकोण से कह रहा हूँ। इस बीच में हमारे इस मंत्रालय ने जो कार्य किया, वह वास्तव में उसके लिये बघाई और प्रशंसा का पात्र है।

इस रिपोर्ट में एक लम्बी सूची इस आशय की दी गई है कि इस पिछले वर्ष में कितने मकानों का निर्माण किया गया, इस समय कितने मकान बन रहे हैं और आगे कितने मकान बनाने की योजना है। माननीय उप-मंत्री भी इस समय मौजूद हैं। वे मुझे क्षमा करेंगे कि इस प्रशास के साथ मैं थोड़ी सी कड़वी बातें भी मिला दूँ। हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में एक बार पी० डब्ल्यू० डी० पर बहस हो रही थी, तो उसके दौरान मैं एक आलोचक ने उसका नाम 'पब्लिक वेस्ट डिपार्टमेंट' रख दिया था।

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chandra): Public Welfare Department.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : मैं उतनी कड़ी आलोचना तो नहीं करना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन माननीय

मंत्री जो इस बात को स्वीकार करेंगे कि यह एक बिल्कुल साधारण व्यक्ति—हर एक व्यक्ति—के ध्यान में आने योग्य बात है कि पिछले दिनों में जिनने मकान बनते थे, वे काफी देर तक टिकते थे। मैं यह बात एक साधारण नागरिक के दृष्टिकोण से कह रहा हूँ। इसके विपरीत आज स्थिति यह है कि मकान बनने के तुरन्त बाद टपकने लगती हैं, या उनमें दरार आ जाती हैं, या कोई और कमियाँ आ जाती हैं, जिससे यह सिद्ध होता है कि जितनी मजबूती के साथ उनको बनाना चाहिये था, उतनी मजबूती और सावधानी से वे नहीं बन रहे हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सम्बद्ध अधिकारियों पर और ठेकेदार साहबान पर कड़ी नजर रखने की आवश्यकता है।

सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग के सम्बन्ध में जो बहुत सी शिकायतें की जाती हैं, मैं उनसे सहमत नहीं हूँ, लेकिन भ्रष्टाचार और करपशन इत्यादि की जो बातें श्री श्री ईश्वर अय्यर ने अपने भाषण में बताई, उन पर ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। मुझे बड़ी प्रसन्नता है कि इस रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि १ जनवरी, १९५६ से ३१ मार्च, १९५७ तक की अवधि में २०८ गजेटिड अप्सरो के खिलाफ शिकायतें पाई गईं। उन में से १३८ व्यक्तियों की जाच समाप्त हुई, ४७ व्यक्तियों को निर्दोष पाया गया और ६१ व्यक्तियों को दण्ड दिया गया। ४६ व्यक्तियों को केवल चेतावनी दी गई, १५ व्यक्तियों को 'सेन्सर' किया गया—उनको कड़ी टिप्पणी दी गई, १६ व्यक्तियों की बढ़ोतरी रोक दी गई, एक व्यक्ति का प्रमोशन रोक दिया गया, एक व्यक्ति से रुपया वगूल कर लिया गया; ४ व्यक्तियों का वेतन कम कर दिया गया, ३ व्यक्तियों को अनिवार्य पेन्शन पर भेज दिया गया और केवल २ को बर्खास्त किया गया, तो यह भी कोई दण्ड हुआ। इस मंत्रालय का एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव व विजिलेस डिबिजन

अच्छा काम कर रहा है, लेकिन उसमें श्री-कड़ापन लाने की आवश्यकता है।

में इस बात का उल्लेख इसलिये कर रहा हूँ कि आज ही मैंने समाचार पत्रों में पढ़ा कि कल हमारे पी० डब्ल्यू० डी० के इजीनियर्स का एक सम्मेलन पचकुई रोड पर हुआ—मे उस सम्मेलन में नहीं जा पाया—और उसमें हमारे गृह मन्त्रालय के मंत्री, श्री दातार जी, को जो अभिनन्दन पत्र दिया गया, उसमें इस आशय के शब्द भी थे कि जिन लोगों के खिलाफ—जिन इजीनियर्स के खिलाफ, इस संघ में वांछनी की गई हैं उनसे हमारी बड़ी समवेदना है। मुझे बड़ी प्रसन्नता है कि दातार साहब ने वही पर उन लोगों को फटकार दिया कि उनके प्रति संवेदना की क्या जरूरत है, जो दोषी हैं, उनको कड़े से कड़ा दण्ड दिया जाना चाहिये, तब ही अपन। मरिगमिज न। मरिगमिज बन। सकते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, निर्माण विभाग के सम्बन्ध में अक्सर यह शिकायत की जाती है कि हमारे विभागों के जो काम कराये जाते हैं, उनमें बड़ी देरी होती है। मैं डाक-नार विभाग में थोड़ा सम्बन्धित रहा हूँ। हर साल हम यहाँ पर शिकायत करते हैं कि करोड़ों रुपये मकानों व क्वार्टरों के लिये रखे गये, लेकिन वे बन नहीं पाये। १९५४-५५ में २८ मकान बने, १९५५-५६ में २५ मकान और १९५६-५७ में २१ मकान बने—अर्थात् इसमें तरक्की नहीं हो रही है, बल्कि अर्थ पतन हो रहा है। जहाँ तक मुझे बताया गया है, इसका कारण यह है कि एस्टीमेट्स बनाने में और नक्शे पास होने में देरी होती है। कुछ टेकनीकल कठिनाइयाँ हो सकती हैं, जिनको हम साधारण आदमी नहीं समझ पाते हैं। मैं तो समझता हूँ कि हमारे इजीनियर्स के लिये यह कठिन नहीं होना चाहिये कि इस सम्बन्ध में कोई ऐसी प्रणाली निकाली जाय कि एस्टीमेट्स बनने में और नक्शे पास होने इत्यादि में देरी न

लगे, ताकि हमारा निर्माण का कार्य तेजी के साथ चलने लगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपकी भी इस बात की याद होगी कि हमारे यहाँ राजघाट में राष्ट्रपिता बापू की समाधि बनने जा रही है। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि लगभग दस वर्ष पूर्व उनका देहान्त हुआ था लेकिन सात वर्षों में उनके स्मारक का डिजाइन ही स्वीकार नहीं हो सका है। आज के अखबारों में मैंने भी देखा कि एक कैबिनेट सब-कमेटी बनाई गई, तब जाकर वह स्वीकार किया गया। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि क्या हमारे लिये यह बड़ी प्रशंसा की बात है कि जिन राष्ट्रपिता के चरण चिन्हों पर हम चलन का प्रयत्न करते हैं और जिनको हम सब अपना आदर्श मानते हैं, उनका स्मारक न बन पाये और उनकी समाधि के ऊपर एक भव्य भवन न खड़ा हो सके? अतः इस सम्बन्ध में शीघ्रता करनी चाहिये और अब जब कि उसका डिजाइन स्वीकार किया जा चुका है, आशा है कि अब उसमें देरी नहीं होगी।

अभी मेरे साथी श्री अन्तार हरवानी ने दिल्ली में एकाभोडेशन—आवास—की जो समस्या है, उस पर प्रकाश डाला है। स्वयं इस रिपोर्ट में स्वीकार किया गया है कि दिल्ली में इतने ज्यादा मकान बन चुकने के बावजूद विभाग को बहुत कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। जरा दफ्तरो की स्थिति देखिये, उनके लिये ४२,५५,००० वर्ग फीट जगह की आवश्यकता है, जिस में से अभी तक सिर्फ ३७,८५,००० वर्ग फीट जगह ही मिल पाई है। इसी तरीके से ससद्-सदस्यों का भी हाल है। ६७५ ससद्-सदस्यों के लिये अभी तक केवल ५१९ मकान बन पाये हैं और १५६ के लिये अभी तक कोई व्यवस्था नहीं हो सकी है। ५०० रुपये से ऊपर पाने वाले कर्मचारियों के लिये ३,३८५ मकानों में से अभी तक २,०१७ ही बन पाये हैं और १,३६८ अभी बनने हैं।

[श्री भक्त दर्शन]

५०० रुपये से कम वेतन पाने वाले कर्मचारियों के लिये ४२,३७६ मकानों में से १३,५८१ बने हैं और २८,७९५ अभी तक नहीं बन पाये हैं। जहाँ तक चौथी श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों का सम्बन्ध है, उनके लिये बनने वाले १८,८३५ मकानों में से केवल ५,२२६ अभी तक बन पाये हैं और १३,६०९ नहीं बने हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में हरवानी साहब ने जो बात कही है, मैं उसका जोरदार समर्थन करते हुए माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि नीचे की श्रेणी के—तीसरी और चौथी श्रेणी के—लोगों के लिये खास तौर से प्रयत्न किया जाना चाहिये। जहाँ तक मुझे पता लगा है, गवर्नमेंट ने हाल ही में एक बुनियादी निर्णय किया है कि अब बड़े बड़े मकान न बनाये जायें। यह बड़ी अच्छी बात है। अब जब इस विभाग के पास यह मौका है कि अब छोटे कर्मचारियों के लिये क्वार्टर बड़े परिमाण में बनाये जायें और हम सम्बन्ध में जो कार्यक्रम है, उसको बढ़ाया जाय।

मैं इस सम्बन्ध में यह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सेवानगर, विनयनगर और दूसरी जगहों में जो बहुत से क्वार्टर बने हैं, वहाँ से रोज शिकायत आ रही है और इस सदन में प्रश्न किये जाते हैं कि अभी तक वहाँ बिजली का प्रकाश नहीं मिला है। हम दिल्ली में देख रहे हैं कि जिन सड़कों पर काफी अच्छा उजाला है, वहाँ पर भी नये ढग के, बड़े चमकीले बल्ब लगाये जा रहे हैं।

एक माननीय सदस्य मरकुरी लाइट्स।

श्री भक्त दर्शन इस प्रकार जहाँ काम ठीक प्रकार से चल रहा है, वहाँ और खर्च किया जा रहा है, लेकिन चौथी श्रेणी के लोगों के क्वार्टर में अभी तक बिजली का इन्तजाम नहीं हो सका है। हाल ही में मुझे विनयनगर से यह शिकायत भी मिली है कि वहाँ पर पानी ऐसे समय पर सोला जाता है, जब

लोग दफ्तर जाने के लिये तैयार होते हैं। इस प्रकार से नहा नहीं सकते हैं और कपड़े नहीं धो सकते हैं। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे कर्मचारियों के लिये बिजली और पानी की, जो कि न्यूनतम आवश्यकताये हैं, उनकी सन्तोषजनक व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिये।

जनरल बजट की बहस में भाग लेते हुए मैंने कहा था कि हमारे 'पी' ब्लाक में एक भवन उजाड़ा जा रहा है। अब मैंने सुना है कि वह भवन उजाड़ना कुछ रोक दिया गया और आधा रुक गया। क्यों? पहले वहाँ पर रेलवे बोर्ड की ओर से एक बहुत बड़ी बिल्डिंग बनने वाली थी कई करोड़ रुपये की लागत से, लेकिन गवर्नमेंट ने यह तय किया कि शानो-शीकत की—'प्रेस्टीज बिल्डिंग'—के निर्माण को रोक दिया जाय, तो उस कार्य को अचानक रोक दिया गया। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पहले इस बात को क्यों नहीं सोचा गया कि इसकी जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी। अब वे खड्कर किस बात की गवाही देते हैं? कम से कम वे हमारी कर्मप्यता की गवाही तो नहीं देते हैं।

इस रिपोर्ट में स्वीकार किया गया है कि दूसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना में सरकार यदि अपने पूरे साधन लगायेंगी, तो भी दिल्ली में अस्सी प्रतिशत कर्मचारियों के लिये ही क्वार्टर बन पायेंगे यानी बीस प्रतिशत कर्मचारी कभी भी क्वार्टर प्राप्त करने की आशा ही नहीं कर सकते हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले दस साल से सबाल यह किया जा रहा है कि जिन दफ्तरों की यहाँ पर आवश्यकता नहीं है, उनको दिल्ली से हटा दिया जाय। यहाँ क्यों कनजेशन बढ़ायी हुई है, लेकिन इसका जवाब नहीं मिलता है। इसके लिये कई बार कमेटीया बनाई गई हैं, कई बार सूचिया तैयार की गई हैं, लेकिन इस पर कोई निर्णय नहीं हो पाता है। अब समस्या यह पैदा हो गई है कि जब से राज्य

पुनर्गठन हुआ है तब से बहुत से राज्यों की राजधानियां खाली पड़ी हुई हैं। इन में नागपुर, पटियाला, इंदौर, ग्वालियर इत्यादि का नाम लिया जा सकता है, जहां पर कि दफ्तरों इत्यादि को ले जाने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की जा रही है। मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय इसके बारे में विचार करें। इस सिलसिले में मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि पहले जो सूची बनी थी उसमें मसूरी का नाम भी था। मसूरी को पर्वतीय नगरों की रानी "Queen of Hill Stations" कह कर पुकारा जाता था। लेकिन जब से अंग्रेज बहादुर तशरीफ ले गये हैं वह विधवा नारी सी दिखाई देती है; उसका सारा श्रृंगार समाप्त हो गया है; उसकी सारी चहल-पहल खत्म हो गई है। मैं चाहता हूं कि केन्द्रीय सरकार उसकी मदद के लिये आये।

13 hrs.

श्री मू० च० जैन (कैथल) : और बहुत सी रानियों का भी यही हाल हुआ है।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : मैं चाहता हूं कि मसूरी के क्लेम को नजरअंदाज न किया जाये और उसके क्लेम पर भी सहानुभूति पूर्वक विचार किया जाये। वहां पर बहुत सारी बिडिगज खाली पड़ी हुई हैं। लैंडौर से कैंटोनमेण्ट हटाया जा रहा है, वहां बैरकें खाली हैं। नरेन्द्रनगर को महाराजा साहब टेहरी ने बसाया था, वहां भी कई बिल्डिंगें खाली पड़ी हुई हैं। उनका भी उपयोग सही ढंग से किया जा सकता है, यदि गवर्नमेंट के दफ्तर यहां से वहां चले जायें। यह जगह भी मसूरी के पास ही एक हिल स्टेशन है।

Shri Keshava (Bangalore City):
Offices may be transferred there.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : मैं भी यही कहता हूं कि दिल्ली में जो कंजेशन है उसको हटाने के लिये सरकार बहुत कोशिश कर रही है।

लेकिन उसके प्लान के मुताबिक भी पांच साल के बाद २० प्रतिशत सरकारी कर्मचारियों को कोई जगह नहीं दी जा सकेगी। इस वास्ते मैं चाहता हूं कि इस प्रश्न पर गम्भीरता से विचार किया जाये।

जो लोग उत्तर प्रदेश असम्बली के मेम्बर रह चुके हैं या जो लखनऊ से यहां आये हैं वे इस कहावत को जानते होंगे कि "लखनऊ पर हम फिदा, और हम फिदाये लखनऊ"। यही बात दिल्ली पर भी लागू होती है। लोग यहां से—दिल्ली से—हटना ही नहीं चाहते हैं। पता नहीं यहां क्या आकर्षण है? जब कभी यहां से दफ्तरों को हटाने का सवाल पैदा होता है तो कोई न कोई षड्यंत्र रच दिया जाता है, कोई न कोई बहानेबाजी कर दी जाती है। अतः मैं चाहूंगा कि इस पर जरा गम्भीरता से विचार किया जाये। एक तरफ तो मकान उजड़ते जा रहे हैं, उनमें पुताई तक नहीं हो पा रही है, लेकिन दूसरी ओर नये-नये भवन बनते जा रहे हैं—यह कहां का न्याय है? आज हम समाजवादी समाज की स्थापना करने का दावा कर रहे हैं। अगर देखा जाये तो यह चीज उसके भी अनुकूल नहीं मालूम पड़ती है।

हमारे आदरणीय मित्र श्री रंगा साहब ने उन दो होटलों की जो कि बनाये गये हैं, बड़ी तारीफ की है। तारीफ तो मैं भी अवश्य करना चाहता हूं, क्योंकि उन होटलों की वजह से वास्तव में हमारे पास बड़े बड़े भवन, आठ-मंजिले भवन, हो गये हैं और हमारी शान बढ़ गई है। लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में मैं थोड़ा सा यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि अशोक का नाम जो रखा गया है

एक माननीय सदस्य : आप लोगों की सजेशन पर ही रखा गया था।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : मैं इस पक्ष में नहीं हूं कि इस नाम को बदला जाये। मैं तो केवल यह चाहता हूं कि अशोक के नाम के अनुकूल

[श्री भक्त दर्शन]

ही कार्य किया जाये। जब अशोक का नाम, इतन बट व्यक्ति का नाम जिसका कि अशोक चक्र हमारे झंड पर है

श्री अनिल कु० चन्दा अब होना मुश्किल है।

श्री भवन दर्शन म यह नहीं कहता कि नाम का बदल दिया जाय। मैं तो यह कह रहा हूँ कि जब इतन बड़े आदमी का नाम इतन बड़े हाटल के साथ लगाया गया है तो उसके अनबूल वहाँ का वातावरण भी बनाया जाय। उस पर २ ७५,७० ००० रुपये खर्च हो रहे हैं जिस में से १,३५,६५,००० रुपये उसका निर्माता कार्य पर खर्च किया जायेगा। १८०,०० ००० उसकी फिटिंग्स वगैरह पर हुए हैं यानी कालीन, दरिया इत्यादि पर हुए हैं। य दरिया इत्यादि क्या भारतीय नहीं ली जा सकती थी? कम से कम इन चीजों का तो भारतीय किया जा सकता है। हमारे चन्दा साहब यहाँ बैठे हुए हैं। वह शांतिनिकेतन के मंचालक रह चुके हैं। मैं उनसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वहाँ पर भारतीय संगीत की व्यवस्था नहीं की जा सकती? क्या वहाँ पर भारतीय वातावरण भारतीय शिष्टाचार, भारतीय मस्जिदों की छाप नहीं लगाई जा सकती है? अब जब कि यह हाटल बन कर तैयार हो गया है तो उसको अब उजाड़ा भी नहीं जा सकता है। अगर हमको उजाड़ा जाये तो भी शायद हम पर लाखों रुपये खर्च हो जायेंगे। अब अब उसका उजाड़ने का प्रश्न नहीं है। लेकिन उसका भारतीय आदर्शों के अनुकूल चलाना का अवश्य प्रयत्न किया जा सकता है।

श्री दी० च० शर्मा वह कैसे?

श्री भवन दर्शन अगर उस होटल को आप अशोक के नाम पर चलाना चाहते हैं तो वहाँ पर मध्य निवेश आपकी करना पड़ेगा और कट्टर निरामिय भोजन आपकी वहाँ

पर लोगों को देना पड़ेगा। ये बहुत कठोर शर्तें हैं। यह कहा जा सकता है कि विदेशी लोग जब आयेंगे तो वे कैसे टिकेंगे और उनके लिये ही तो उसको खास तौर से बनाया गया है। अब अगर यह जरूरी है कि वहाँ पर शराबखोरी ही तो मैं एक और सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ। अभी हाल ही में २३ तारीख का प्रधान मंत्री जी ने यहाँ पर प्रश्नोत्तर के समय यह जवाब दिया था —

‘As a result of the coming into existence of the hotel, the other hotel charges have gone down, otherwise there was no competition at all’

म यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली में जितन भी और हाटल हैं वहाँ पर शराब-बन्दी कर दी जाये जिसका नतीजा यह होगा कि जितन भी शराबी कबाबी हैं वे सब यहाँ पहुँच जायेंगे और आपका खर्चा भी निकल आयेगा। घाटा भी पूरा हो जायेगा।

Shri B K Gaikwad (Nasik).
Mr Speaker, Sir, I will confine my remarks to the problem of housing, with special reference to slum clearance

Mr Speaker After this hon Member concludes his speech I propose calling Shri Hemraj and Shri Ambalam

Shri B K Gaikwad. The reason for my interest in slum areas is this I and my brethren of several other communities which are considered as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes having been living for generations together in slum areas Whenever the problem of slum areas arises, it is said that slum areas are only in cities and towns But that is not so. In India there are about six lakhs villages and in every village, wherever there is a locality of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they are nothing else but slums

An Hon. Member. Every village is a slum

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I would not say so, but in every village there are slum areas, particularly occupied by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is therefore important that Government should devote some attention to this matter.

Shri B. S. Murthy (Kakinada—Reserved—Sch Castes): Before you remove slums, slum consciousness must be removed from the hearts.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I was under the impression that Government would have done something for the removal of slums. But going through the achievements during the first Five Year Plan period I find that nothing has been done for the removal of slums and the housing of the sweepers.

The Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1956, lays down the circumstances under which an area can be declared a slum area.

"3(1) Where the competent authority upon report from any of its officers or other information in its possession is satisfied as respects any area that the buildings in that area—

(a) are in any respect unfit for human habitation, or

(b) are by reason of dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangement and design of such buildings, narrowness or faulty arrangement of streets, lack of ventilation, light or sanitation facilities, or any combination of these factors, are detrimental to safety, health or morals,

it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare such area to be a slum area.

(2) In determining whether a building is unfit for human habitation for the purposes of this Act, regard shall be had to its condition in respect of the following matters, that is to say—

(a) repair,

(b) stability,

(c) freedom from damp,

(d) natural light and air;

(e) water supply,

(f) drainage and sanitary conveniences,

(g) facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water, etc."

13-09 hrs

[SHRI BARMAN in the Chair]

If we go through the achievements of the First Five Year Plan, we find that nothing has been done in this respect and if we go through the reports published by Government themselves for the last five years, we find that Government have done nothing absolutely in this behalf. In the report for the year 1953-54 it is said

"It is the intention to start a few pilot schemes of slum clearance so that the experience of actual working can help in evolution of a long term policy in this respect."

They have started nothing, they are only thinking of this problem. In the next report for the year 1954-55 you find they have said that the problem of slum clearance is closely linked with industrial housing and the face of an industrial town cannot be changed for the better unless the sore spots, the slums, have been eliminated. They go on to say that explanatory enquiries were made from the State Governments requesting them to send up specific schemes for their suggestions as to the nature and extent of central assistance that could reasonably be expected to be given to them. Their replies to the Central Government reveal that almost all of them were unable to proceed with their programmes of slum clearance in cities without a substantial subsidy from the Centre.

"Another obstacle in the way of slum clearance is the exorbitant acquisition cost based on the existing market value of slum area." So for

[Shri B R Gaikwad]

the year 1954-55, they have done nothing

Let us take the year 1955-56. Of course, the Government's intention is there. What they say is this

"Housing, man's basic need next to food and clothing, continues to be a major problem before the nation"

That is the importance they have attached for this "Housing man's basic need next to food and clothing". It is the basic need next to food and clothing, what importance Government have attached to this for the last so many years? Even after attaching such importance to it, they have done nothing, and year after year passes without the Government doing anything towards this problem.

In another paragraph of their report, the Government say

'Realising the profound influence that proper housing exercises on the health and the working capacity of the individuals, an allocation of Rs 38.5 crores was made in the first Plan'

In the first Five Year Plan, this amount was allotted

"This amount was mainly utilised for assisting the construction of housing colonies for industrial workers and giving financial facilities to low income groups"

So for the slum areas and for housing in villages, nothing has been done, but the amount which was provided in the first Five Year Plan, namely Rs 38.5 crores was utilised for this purpose, that is, for low income groups, only. What is this low income group? Low income group means, low-paid staff and workers whose income does not exceed Rs 6000 per year. That is, for a man who is earning less than Rs 500 per mensem, housing should be provided. Of course, one of my hon friends just now has said that there are so many

clerks working in several offices. They have no houses. They are suffering too much. I do support him. I do admit, but comparatively, we will have to see that the man who is most needy is helped. I just want to invite the attention of the hon Minister to one problem which I shall mention now.

Again, at page 26 of the report, the Government say

"The question of slum clearance such as sweepers' housing, has been engaging the attention of this Ministry for quite sometime. Explanatory enquiries made from the State Governments reveal that almost all of them were unable to take up this work."

This is what they have said as regards housing and the slum clearance in the sweepers' areas.

In the latest report, that is, 1956-57, it is said as follows

"In the country's march towards the building up of a welfare State, the creation of separate portfolio for housing in May, 1952 was an event of major importance. Health and living conditions are a basic human need and no progressive Government can afford to be indifferent to the problem presented by overcrowding and congestion prevailing in large parts of the country. The provision of Rs 30.5 crores set apart for housing during the first Five Year Plan had been stepped up to Rs 120 crores during the second Five Year Plan indicating Government's keen desire to do all possible in this field despite their financial limitations"

Again, on rural housing, the report says as follows

"The problem of rural housing is expected to receive greater attention during the second Five Year Plan. Rural housing was considered primarily the responsibility of the State Governments who were expected to improve

housing standards and living conditions in rural areas by providing funds as long term loans—”

Mr. Chairman: The hon Member's time is up.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: There is very short time at my disposal and I shall therefore not go through the reports I will finish I must tell the House that the Government have come forward and said that they have, for the coming Five Year Plan, that is, the second Plan, provided Rs 120 crores But, when you go through the report and through the budget, you will find that for the last year, they had provided Rs 4,04,97,000 Then, in the revised estimate, some amount was included and that comes to Rs 4,19,95,000 When Rs 36 crores were provided, at that time, Rs 4 crores were spent for housing purposes Of course, the lowpaid servants got the benefit, as some houses were erected for them But while Rs 120 crores have been provided in the Plan, for this year Rs 2,15,76,000 only have been provided for this purpose in the budget

Now, you will find from the review of the first Five Year Plan that the Government have clearly stated that they have done nothing “It would, however, be true to say that over the first plan period the rural housing problem was scarcely touched” So, nothing was done during the first Five Year Plan, in this direction

As I said at the beginning, in every village there is a slum and we must improve the slums I do admit that it is a very difficult task, but anyhow we will have to tackle this problem and do something in that direction

Mr. Chairman: The hon Member's time is up

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I will be very brief I shall draw the attention of this House to the fact that though this city of Delhi is the capital of India, you will find there are two lakhs of slum-dwellers in Delhi About 40,000

families are slum-dwellers Not only that They occupy an area of about 500 acres

Shri K. C. Reddy: I may intervene here, and I am sorry to do so. This slum clearance problem is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and not the responsibility of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply It is only in respect of the slums outside the city of Delhi that the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply has to do something

Of course, there will be co-ordination between that Ministry and this Ministry But basically, the responsibility for slum clearance and slum improvement in Delhi is that of the Ministry of Health

Shri B. K. Gaikwad. That is all right I would like to bring to the notice of this House that in Delhi, which is the capital city of India, the height of the houses is not more than 3 to 4 feet and the inner area is 5 feet by 5 feet In an area of 25 square feet, about 10 to 15 people reside It is not possible for them to sleep inside and so, many of them are lying on the roads The persons who live by the side of the road prevent them from sleeping on the roads also

I would request the hon Minister as well as my friends, who spoke before me and who were complaining about the clerks' accommodation, to come and see the position in Delhi. The situation every where outside, in towns and villages, is the same as in Delhi So, Government should pay more attention to this problem. It is no use saying that it is the responsibility of the Health Ministry and not ours I would request the hon Minister as well as the Members of this House to just come and visit these localities in Delhi I have got the names of about 36 localities in Delhi, where people live in the way I have explained You are constructing big buildings like the Ashoka Hotel When foreigners come, you want to give them all comforts and say, this is India Take them to the villages,

[Shri B. R. Gaikwad]

show them the huts and say, "this is India and not that". So, what I am pointing out is, we should attach more importance to this problem. Of course, I have no complaints about Ashoka Hotel and other hotels; if they have got sufficient funds, they should do it. But they should attach more importance to this problem in the country. In my opinion, the Government have ignored this for the last five years. Even in the Second Five Year Plan, they have only provided Rs. 2 crores for this purpose, whereas they have provided Rs. 120 crores for housing. They should feel their responsibility and see that something is done about these slum areas, particularly in Delhi.

With these words, I am concluding. I am sorry I have not got enough time to put forward all my grievances, but I hope Government will consider whatever points I have made and do whatever is possible.

श्री हेम राव (कागड) : सभापति महोदय, मैं अपने बक्स, हाउसिंग एंड सप्लाय के जो भूतपूर्व मिनिस्टर थे सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह, और अब जो नए मिनिस्टर हैं, श्री रेडडी तथा उनके सहयोगी चन्दा साहब, इन सब को बर्खास्त देना चाहता हूँ उस सब के लिये जो उन्होंने गरीब भ्रष्टाचार के लिये किया है। उन सब ने गरीब लोगों के लिये घरों की व्यवस्था करने का प्रबन्ध किया है और उनको बसाने के तरीके सोचे हैं। सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह जी ने जो लो इनकम हाउसिंग की स्कीम को चलाया और स्लम एरियाज़ को ठीक ठाक करने की स्कीम बनाई। आज इन स्कीमों को ग्रन्ट में लाया जा रहा है।

आज मैं माननीय मंत्री जी की सेवा में लो इनकम हाउसिंग स्कीम के बारे में थोड़ा सा भ्रष्टाचार करना चाहता हूँ। जिस

वक्त यह स्कीम चलाई गई थी उस वक्त देहातो में इस के बारे में काफी प्रचार किया गया था और कहा गया था कि मिडिल क्लास के लोगों को मकान इत्यादि बनाने के लिये कर्ज दिये जायेंगे। इस का नतीजा यह हुआ कि हज़ारों की तादाद में एप्लीकेशंस गवर्नमेंट के पास पहुंची। चाहिये तो यह था कि जितना भी रुपया हर एक सूबे को हिन्द सरकार से मिलना था या उसके मुताबिक जितना भी रुपया बहा की राज्य सरकार ने देना था उसके मुताबिक ही एप्लीकेशंस ली जाती। लेकिन एप्लीकेशंस हज़ारों की तादाद में घा गई और हिन्द सरकार ने जो कर्जा दिया उसके अन्दर रहते हुए इन सब लोगों को कर्जा नहीं मिल सकता था। इस का नतीजा यह हुआ कि लोगों के अन्दर एक बेदिली सी पैदा हो गई। इस का परिणाम यह हुआ कि जिन लोगों ने प्रार्थना दी उनसे सौ सौ और दो दो सौ रुपया सिम्प्योरिटी बोर्डस में खर्च करवा दिया गया और बाद में उन्हें जवाब दे दिया गया। यही नहीं, उसमें आपने एक शर्त यह भी रखी थी कि साठे चार परसेंट के हिसाब में सूद लिया जायेगा और एक परसेंट खर्चा बाकी का जो सरकार का होता है जिमको कि एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव चार्ज कहा जाता है, वह भी लिया जायेगा। इस सब के साथ साथ एक शर्त यह भी लगा दी गई कि तीस साल के अन्दर आप उस कर्ज को वापस ले लेंगे। मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि कुछ लोग ऐसे भी थे जो कि कर्ज की रकम को जल्दी ही लौटा देना चाहते थे लेकिन सरकार ने उनको ऐसा करने की इजाजत नहीं दी। जब उन लोगों ने कहा कि हम तीस साल के पहले ही रुपया दे देना चाहते हैं तो एप्रीमेंट के मुताबिक उनको यह उत्तर दिया गया कि तीस साल से पहले रुपया वसूल नहीं किया जा सकता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि जब आप इस तरह की स्कीम बनायें तो उनमें आप

कोई भी इस तरह की शर्त न रखें कि तीस साल के पहले रुपया बसूल नहीं किया जा सकता है बल्कि यह कहें कि जो लोग पहले देना चाहते हैं वे पहले भी इस कर्ज की अदायगी कर सकते हैं और उनसे कर्जा वापिस लिया जा सकता है।

मैं आप से यह भी प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि इस वक्त जो कर्जा आपने पंजाब सरकार को दिया है वह इतना नाकाफी है कि जो अर्जियां उसके पास इस वक्त तक भीसूल हो चुकी हैं, उनका भी वह इस रकम में से निपटारा नहीं कर सकती है। १९५५-५६ में जो अर्जियां आई हैं और जो कि डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैडक्वार्टर्स में पड़ी हुई हैं, उनका भी निपटारा आप की श्रांट में रहते हुए नहीं किया जा सकता है। आगे से जो अर्जियां आयेंगी उनको डिसपोज आफ करने का तो सवाल ही पैदा नहीं होता है। इस वास्ते मैं भारत सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि पंजाब मौसम और आबोहवा के लिहाज से एक ऐसा सूबा है जो कि सस्त गर्म और सस्त सर्द है और वहाँ के लोगों को मकानों की सस्त जरूरत होती है और पंजाब सरकार को इस काम के लिये ज्यादा से ज्यादा रुपया दिया जाए।

आपने कर्ज देने का जो प्रोसीजर रखा था वह बहुत ही खराब था। आप ने यह कहा था कि मेंबरान पार्लियामेंट या मेंबरान असेम्बली उनकी एप्लीकेशन्स की तस्वीक करे और उसके तीन मरहले होते थे। पहला मरहला तो वह होता था जब कोई एप्लीकेशन देता था। दूसरा वह होता था जब उस मकान की बुनियादें तामीर हो जाती थी और तीसरा वह था कि जिस वक्त मकान बनकर तामीर हो जाता था। इस तरह से तीन किस्तों में रुपया उसको मिलता था।

अब जो एम० पी० और एम० एल० एच० उन एप्लीकेशन्स की तस्वीक करते

थे उनको यह तक पता नहीं होता था कि आया मकान की बुनियादें पड़ गई हैं या नहीं और मकान सारा बन गया है कि नहीं। हमने कई बज्रा इस के लिये रिप्रेजेंट किया है कि दरअसल यह तसवीक बगैरह का काम देहात की पंचायतों के सुपुर्व कर दिया जाना चाहिये क्योंकि उनको हर चीज का पूरा इल्म रहता है कि क्या वाकई उसको मकान की जरूरत है, आया उस मकान की बुनियादें हैं या वह मकान कहां तक तामीर हो गया है। इस के लिये कई बज्रा रिप्रेजेंटेशन किया गया और कई बज्रा आपके नोटिस में भी और पंजाब सरकार के भी नोटिस में यह लाया गया कि यह जो तसवीक करने की शर्त है यह पंचायतों को दे दी जाय लेकिन आज तक उस पर कोई प्रमस नहीं हुआ।

मेरी आप से यह दरखास्त है कि जो प्रोसीज्योर आपने बनाया है उसके मुताल्लिक मुझे यह कहना है कि यह जो आप की हाउसिंग की स्कीम है इन पर प्रमस दरामद करने के लिये और इनको प्रमली जामा पहनाने के लिये आपने कोई कारपोरेशन या बोर्ड नहीं बनाये हैं और इस पर पूरी तौर से प्रमस दरामद कराने के लिये हर एक स्टेट में हाउसिंग बोर्ड बनाये जायें या स्टेट हाउसिंग कारपोरेशन बना दी जाय।

अभी जैसा कि मेरे एक भाई बोल रहे थे कि प्रसली जरूरत सहायता की जो तो छोटे और गरीब तबके को है जो कि देहातों में रहता है, देहात वालों के लिये आपकी लिप सिम्पेथी (जबानी हमदर्दी) तो रहती है लेकिन वह प्रमली सूरत बहुत कम प्रस्त्यार करती है। आज भी अगर आप देखें तो पायेंगे कि ५ लाख देहात हमारे देश में हैं और उन ५ लाख देहातों का ५० फ्रीसवी हिस्सा बगैर मकानों के है। हमारे बंकवर्ड क्लासज और हरिजन लोगों की ह्यूलत बड़ी खराब है और हुकीकत यह है

[श्री हमराज]

कि वह जोन के लिये दरखास्तें देते हैं लेकिन वहा पर उन की कोई सुनवाई नहीं होती और उनको कोई रुपया नहीं मिलता । में उन के लिये विशेष तौर पर भ्रूज करना चाहत हू कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा रुपया रक्खा जाना चाहिए ।

अभी पिछले कुछ दिनों से एक एकोनामिक ड्राइव की लहर हमारे देश में चल पडी है लेकिन उस दिशा में भी कोई खास काम होता दिखाई नहीं देता । मुझ से पहले के वक्ताओं ने सदन के सामने यह चीज रखी है कि सरकारी दफतरो का दिल्ली से बाहर ले जाने की बर्द दफा स्कीमें बनती हैं लेकिन आज पांच वर्ष से देख रहे हैं कि उस दिशा में कोई प्रगति नहीं हुई है और यहा से कोई सरकारी दफतर बाहर नहीं गये हैं । में यह चीज नहीं समझ पाता कि जिस वक्त अंग्रेज सरकार यहा पर थी तो गवर्नमेंट आफ इण्डिया के जितने भी दफतर थे वह सारे के सार शिमला में हाउस किये जा सकते थे और आज वे तमाम बडी बडी इमारतें खाली और बेकार पडी हुई हैं । क्यों नहीं यहा दिल्ली से कुछ सरकारी दफतर वहा पर मूतकिल किये जा सकते ताकि शिमले की वह इमारतें भी काम में आ सकें और दिल्ली में किसी हद तक कजेशन भी कम किया जा सके । शिमले के अलावा पटियाला, नामा, कपूरथला, मसूर नागपुर और डलहौजी आदि बहुत सी ऐसी जगहें हैं जहा गवर्नमेंट आफ इण्डिया के सरकारी दफतर बडी आसानी से मूतकिल किये जा सका हैं । मुझे से पहले श्री भक्त दर्शन ने अपन भाषण में कहा था कि वास्तव में कोई भी सरकारी कर्मचारी दिल्ली से बाहर नहीं जाना चाहता, दिल्ली उस के लिये एक ऐसे आकर्षण की वस्तु बन गई है कि कोई भी यहा से बाहर जाना पसन्द नहीं करता, लेकिन में समझता हू कि जब एकोनामिक ड्राइव चल रही हो तो बडी बडी इमारतें जिनमें सरकारी दफतर रह सकते हैं वे बेकार पडी रहें और

दूसरी ओर बडी बडी इमारतें बनाई जायें कुछ उचित प्रतीत नहीं होता । वास्तव में ऐसा मासूम पडता है कि एकोनामिक ड्राइव में वही पहने वाला अंग्रेजी तुरीका बर्ता जा रहा है । यह एकोनाम की जा रही है कि कार में झडा न लहराया जाय या पुराने लिफाफो को जाया न किया जाय और उनको दुबारा इस्तेमाल में लाया जाय । इन छोटी छोटी चीजों में एकोनामी चलाई जा रही है लेकिन जो, भवा धुन्व बडी बडी इमारतें बनाई जा रही हैं उन में एकोनामी नहीं की जा रही है जहा कि एकोनामी की बहुत गुंजाइश है ।

अभी पिछले दिनों में दिल्ली में जो फार्मस फोरम हुआ था वहा पर जो देहाती किसान लोग आये में वह सवाल करते कि आज सरकार हमसे जो इतने सारे टैक्स वसूल करती है क्या वह तमाम रुपया इन बडी बडी इमारतों के बनाने में खर्च किया जा रहा है । मुझे अभी अपने चुनाव के दौरान जब लोगो से जा कर उन के घरों में मिलना पडा तो में ने महसूस किया कि उनमें इस बडी हुई महगाई और दूसरी तरफ सरकार द्वारा टैक्सों में बढ़ोतरी होने के कारण असतोष है । हम लोग घर घर में इन टैक्सों के कारण बदनाम थे और वे कहते थे कि इस गवर्नमेंट को हम बहुत देर तक रखने को तैयार नहीं । एक तरफ तो इतनी महगाई है कि लोगो की खरीद की कुव्वत कमजोर हो चुकी हो और दूसरी तरफ आप उन पर इतने अधिक टैक्स लगाये और ऐसी बडी बडी इमारतें बनाये, तो इस को कोई भी अचानक बहुत ज्यादा देर तक बर्दाश्त करने को तैयार नहीं होगा । शिमले आदि अन्य स्थानों पर तो बडी बडी इमारतें जिन में सरकारी दफतर रह सकते हो वे तो खाली पडी रहे और दिल्ली में दफतरो की भरभार बनी रहे और जगह की तगी के कारण यहा पर और बडी बडी इमारतें बनाने की जरूरत महसूस हो

मेरा कहना यह है कि आप क्यों नहीं इस पर गम्भीरता से विचार करते कि शिमले में श्रीर अन्य स्थानों पर जहाँ बड़ी बड़ी इमारतें खाली और बेकार पड़ी हैं उनमें दिल्ली के कुछ सरकारी दफ्तरों को भेज दिया जाय। मैं माननीय मंत्री से यह दरखास्त करूँगा कि इसके मुतालिक जो पहली कमेटी उन्होंने बिठलाई थी, उसका मुझे पता नहीं कि क्या फैसला हुआ, पाचसाल से यह बीज चल रही है कि सरकारी दफ्तरों को दिल्ली में हटाने के सवाल पर और करने के लिये सरकार ने एक कमेटी बिठलाई हुई है लेकिन अभी तक कोई भी प्रगति उस दिशा में हमें देखने को नहीं मिली है, मंत्री महोदय इस सवाल पर गम्भीरता से विचार करें और जल्द कोई फैसला करें ताकि दिल्ली में कुछ सरकारी दफ्तर शिमला आदि अन्य स्थानों में भेजे जा सकें।

एक बात में आप के सामने अपने कट-मोशन के मुतालिक कहना चाहता हूँ और वह यह है कि बदकिस्मती से मुझे यहाँ कुछ देर से आना पड़ा, करीब एक सप्ताह हुआ जब मैं यहाँ पर हाज़िर हुआ था। अभी आप के सामने एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा था कि लोक सभा के सदस्यों के लिये ६७५ मकानों की जरूरत है लेकिन बने काल ५१६ हैं और जो ५१६ बने भी हैं वे भी लोक सभा के सदस्यों को नहीं मिल सकते। वह हमारे लिये नहीं हैं। इस दफा जब मुझे यहाँ सेवान में आने का इतिहास हुआ और मैंने एस्टेट आफिस में मकान के लिये दरखास्त दी तो मैंने पाया कि वहाँ एस्टेट आफिस के जो अफसरान लोग हैं वे सीधे मुझे बात करने को तैयार नहीं हैं। मैं तो यह समझता हूँ कि यह जो १४,१४ और १५, १५ लाख जनता के प्रतिनिधि इस लोक-सभा में बैठे हैं, उन के साथ अगर इस एस्टेट आफिस का सलूक देखा जाय तो पता चलेगा कि उससे बदतर सलूक कहीं और हो नहीं सकता। हमसे कहा जाता है कि जाइये अपने लोक सभा के

सेक्रेटेरियट के पास जाकर कहिये और वहाँ पर जाइये तो वह भी बतलाने को तैयार नहीं हैं। असल में हुआ यह है कि जो फ्लैट्स लोक सभा के मेम्बरो के वास्ते बनाये गये थे, उनमें से बहुत सारे फ्लैट्स गवर्नमेंट एम्प्लॉईज को दे दिये गये हैं।

Mr. Chairman: Just one moment. The Lok Sabha Secretariat is just under the control of the hon. Speaker. The practice we are following all these days is, if there be any complaint against the Lok Sabha Secretariat, that should not be made on the floor of the House. It may be directly taken up with the hon. Speaker

Shri Hem Raj: I shall deal only with the Estate Office

मैं अर्ज कर रहा था कि एस्टेट आफिस जाइये तो वे सीधे मुझे बात नहीं करते

एक माननीय सदस्य लोक सभा की बात छोड़ दीजिये।

श्री हेम राज लोक सभा की बात मैंने छोड़ दी है। एस्टेट आफिस तो लोक सभा के नीचे नहीं है, वह तो वर्क्स हाउसिंग एंड सप्लाय मिनिस्ट्री के नीचे है। मैं यह अर्ज कर रहा था कि एस्टेट आफिस में जाओ तो वहाँ के जो अफसरान हैं वे सीधे मुझे बात करने को तैयार नहीं हैं। उन से यह पूछें कि उन में से कितने फ्लैट्स मेम्बरान को मिले हैं और कितने फ्लैट्स गवर्नमेंट एम्प्लॉईज को दिये गये हैं तो वह यह इनफार्मेशन देने को तैयार नहीं है। नार्थ एवेन्यू और माउथ एवेन्यू के इन्फार्मेशन से जब यह पता लगाने की कोशिश की गई कि कौन कौन से फ्लैट्स गवर्नमेंट एम्प्लॉईज के पास हैं तो चूँकि वे अपने बड़े अफसरों से डरते हैं इसलिये वहाँ वाले हम को यह इनफार्मेशन देने को तैयार नहीं होते। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह हकीकत नहीं है कि इस वर्क्स माउथ एवेन्यू के हमारे ६ फ्लैट्स नंबर

[श्री हेम र.ज.]

११, ३४, ३६, ५१, ७६, १५३, १५६, १५९ और ८३ गवर्नमेन्ट एम्प्लोईज के पास हैं। होना यह चाहिये कि अगर वे फ्लैट्स जोकि हमारे लिये बने थे हमें नहीं दिये जा सकते तो हमें पार्लियामेंट के नजदीक आसटर-नेट जगह दी जाय लेकिन भाषा हालत यह हो रही है कि लोक सभा के मेम्बरो को बड़ी दूर दूर जा कर रहना पडा है। क्या यह हकीकत नहीं है कि यह फ्लैट्स लोक सभा के मेम्बरो के रहने के वास्ते बनाये गये थे और लोक सभा का जो सेशन शुरू होने वाला था उसके शुरू होने से पहले ही कम्प्ली फ्लैट्स गवर्नमेन्ट एम्प्लोईज को दे दिये गये हैं? आज वहा पर जानिब-दारी, कुनबापरवरी हो रही है। मैं चाहता हू कि भविष्य में इस किस्म का सलूक लोक सभा के मेम्बरान के साथ नहीं होना चाहिए और जो चीज उनके लिये बनी हो वह उन्ही को मिलनी चाहिए। आज हमें यह कहा जा रहा है कि उन को हमने नोटिस दिये हुए हैं और हमें कुछ देर और ठहरना पडेगा लेकिन मैं समझता हू कि उस वकत तक शायद यह लोक सभा का जो मौजूदा सेशन चल रहा है वह खत्म हूँ जायगा।

सभा ति महोदय, मैं आप के नोटिस में और आप के द्वारा अध्यक्ष महोदय के नोटिस में यह बात लाना चाहता हू कि लोक सभा मेम्बरान के वास्ते बने हुए फ्लैट्स में जो गवर्नमेन्ट एम्प्लोईज को रक्खा गया है, उन को खाली करा कर लोक सभा के मेम्बरो को जल्दी से जल्दी दिलवाने के लिये आवश्यक कदम उठाया जाय। दूसरी तरफ मैं अपने माननीय मंत्री महोदय से एक दब्बास्ति करूंगा कि अब तो उन को पता चल ही गया है कि पांच साल तक लोक सभा और राज्य सभा के लिये ६७५ क्वार्टरो की जरूरत है। अगर इन पांच सालों में वह इस को पूरा नहीं कर सके तो फिर कब करने।

उन की रिपोर्ट में एक सुझाव है कि नार्थ एवेन्यू में एक जगह खाली है, उस में २० क्वार्टर्स बनेंगे। इस सिलसिले में मैं कहना चाहता हू कि मैं नहीं चाहता कि आप हमारे लिये बड़े बड़े क्वार्टर बनायें, लेकिन जो क्वार्टर्स की हालत है उस की तरफ जरूर ध्यान दिया जाए। हमारे क्वार्टर्स की हालत यह है कि हमें जो फर्नीचर दिया जाता है, अगर आप उस की कीमत बाजार में पूछें तो पता चलेगा कि जिस चीज की कीमत वहा पर पांच २० है, उस की कीमत जो फर्द हमें दी गई है उस में कम से कम छत्र टूटी मिली गई है। मैं उन्हें करना चाहता था कि इस चीज की खास तौर पर देखभाल की जाये कि जो फर्नीचर हमें दिया जाता है उस की असल कीमत क्या है और उसके मुताबिक ही उस के किराये की प्रदायगी होनी चाहिये।

यहा पर बहुत से मेम्बरो ने कंट्रिबुटिंग सिस्टम के मुताल्लिक कहा। कंट्रिबुट सिस्टम के नीचे बहुत ज्यादा करप्शन चलता है, इस में कोई शक नहीं है। पर रेटेज कायम कर रक्खा गया है। जो मुस्तालिफ कंट्रिबुटर्स होते हैं, उन के ऊपर ओवरसियर्स होते हैं, पी० डब्ल्यू० डी० के दूसरे आफिसर्स होते हैं। जैसा कि हमारे माननीय सदस्य रंगा जी ने कहा था, इस के लिये जरूरी तौर पर आप को ध्यान रखना पडेगा। आज सब जगह पर सेट्रल पी० डब्ल्यू० डी० का महकमा अपने करप्शन के लिये बदनाम है। व आप के काम के दौरान रास्ते पर पड जाए और जो बदनामी का टीका उस के माथे पर है, वह दूर हो जाए, और उसको दूर करने में सब से प्रहम पार्ट आप प्रदा करे।

Mr. Chairman: The following are the selected cut motions relating to the Demands under the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply which have been indicated by the Members

to be moved subject to their being otherwise admissible:—

Demand No.	Nos. of Cut Motion
92	1428, 1429.
94	1431 to 1459.
134	337.

Prevalence of contract system in C.P.W.D.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply' be reduced to Rs. 1."

Failure to redress grievances of Government Press Employees.

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply' be reduced to Rs. 1."

Need to reorganise the Divisions of the C P W D on proper basis from the point of view of economy and efficiency.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100."

Failure to reduce the working hours of Chowkidars working on stores of the C P W D.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100."

Abolition of the Furniture Workshop at Khushak Road Enquiry Office in the C P W D.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100"

Need to provide free transport on illness to the work-charged staff of the C. P. W. D. employed in different aerodromes.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to provide medical facilities to the workcharged staff of the C. P. W. D. outside Delhi.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to provide essential tools to the workcharged staff of the C. P. W. D

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to count the previous services of the workcharged staff of the C. P. W. D. transferred along with the works from State P. W. D.'s.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100"

Need to construct separate quarters for the workcharged staff of the C P W D. at all aerodromes.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to grant full pay to suspended workers of the C P. W. D. on reinstatement with retrospective effect.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to amend the Workmen's Contributory Provident Fund Rules in conformity with the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to maintain proper service records of the workcharged staff of the C P W D

Shri Easwara Iyer. I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to bring the Estate Office under the administrative control of the Chief Engineer, C P. W. D.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to bring workcharged staff of the Central P.W.D. to the regular establishment with the benefit of past service.

Shri Easwara Iyer. I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Failure to confirm the lift staff on regular establishment in the C P W D against existing permanent vacancies

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Failure to reinstate C P. W. D employees victimised for trade union work

Shri Easwara Iyer. I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to confirm at an early date workcharged staff of the Central P W D. against the existing permanent posts

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Failure to confirm workcharged staff of the C P. W. D. as semi-permanent as and when they complete two years of service.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to do all repair and maintenance works in the C P. W. D departmentally through workcharged staff.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to maintain one seniority list of entire workcharged staff of the C P W D in Delhi

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Failure to pool all workcharged staff of the C P W. D in Delhi and allot them centrally

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Failure to employ retrenched workers in the Directorate of Horticulture of C P W D in preference to outsiders in the years 1954 and 1955.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100."

Need to supply uniforms and liveries to certain categories of workcharged staff in the C. P. W. D.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100."

Need to find suitable promotional avenues for workcharged clerks of the C P W D

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Failure to grant Contributory Health Service benefits to the workcharged staff of the C P W D in Delhi

Shri Easwara Iyer. I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Failure to remove anomalies in the scales of pay of workcharged staff of the C P W D

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to classify workcharged posts of the C P W D into unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled highly skilled, skilled supervisory and clerical categories

Shri Easwara Iyer I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to provide without any delay accommodation to the workcharged staff of the C P W D according to their scales of pay

Shri Easwara Iyer I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Failure to supply liveries to lift staff on the regular establishment in the C P W D

Shri Easwara Iyer. I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Need to provide accommodation to the fire service staff near their duty place

Shri Easwara Iyer I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs 100"

Failure of policy in regard to slum clearance and sweepers' housing

Shri B K. Gaikwad: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply' be reduced by Rs 100"

Mr. Chairman. All these cut motions are before the House

Shri Subbiah Ambalam (Ramana-thapuram) Mr Chairman, the basic needs of men are food, clothing and housing. So far as food is concerned, to a great extent we have solved that problem. The problem of clothing has also more or less been solved. But the problem of housing is a very important one and it needs public co-operation and a lot of finance. From the allotment that has been made under the Five Year Plan we learn that only Rs 120 crores have been allotted for housing. Out of this only Rs 10 crores have been allotted for rural housing.

The problem of rural housing is not tackled by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply alone. There are other Ministries like the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Community Projects which are keenly interested in the problem of housing in rural areas. The problem of rural housing is not an isolated problem. It has to be taken into consideration in the light of the developments that are proposed under the Second Five Year Plan. Rural housing will be successful only to the extent that we are able to solve the problem of agriculture in the rural parts and provide scope for employment for the population in the rural areas. The prosperity, the living standard and the condition of living of the people should be improved in

[Shri Subbiah Ambalam]

the rural areas so that this housing problem can be easily solved.

I would like to say something about the low income group housing. Under this scheme aid is given to persons whose monthly income is about Rs 500/- They are asked to contribute 20 per cent of the cost of the building. The balance 80 per cent is advanced by Government by way of loan. I have known instances where a number of persons, who have formed themselves into a co-operative society and subscribed as shareholders, were not in a position to find even the 20 per cent contribution. This 20 per cent contribution comes to about Rs 2,000/- A person drawing a salary of Rs 500/- will find it difficult to contribute Rs 2,000/- in a lump sum. Therefore, the object of this scheme is not being fulfilled because of this condition. So I would request the hon Minister not to insist upon this 20 per cent contribution but to see that the people who are really in need of houses are provided with houses. The amount can be collected in monthly instalments. After all, the house is a good security and it is worth the money advanced.

I have another suggestion to make regarding low income group housing. The problem of housing in the towns and cities can be easily solved if there is co-ordination between this Ministry and the Ministry of Finance, especially the department dealing with the Life Insurance Corporation. There is a lot of money available for investment in the Life Insurance Corporation. This money can well be utilized for constructing houses. At the same time, we will be encouraging people to take up life insurance policies. I will illustrate this. Suppose a person takes a life policy for Rs 10,000/- The Life Insurance Corporation may undertake to construct a house for the person who has taken the life policy up to the limit of the amount insured. He may be asked to pay the premium in the usual course. At the end of the period, that is, after the maturity of

the life policy, he will have a house of his own. If he dies before the maturity of the policy, he will have the benefit of a house without any encumbrances for his heirs. This, I would say, will be a double benefit. For one thing it will solve the housing problem and for another thing it will induce people to take out more life policies.

Regarding slum clearance most of the States are not able to find the money to clear the slums. The States are asked to contribute a matching subsidy to the tune of 25 per cent and so the money that has been allotted for slum clearance has not been utilized. Therefore, I would request the hon Minister not to insist upon this matching subsidy upon the States. For instance, Madras State is not in a position to find this matching subsidy of 25 per cent. Therefore, what has been allotted by the Central Government towards slum clearance has not been fully utilized.

I want to say something about supplies. I find from the report for the year 1956-57 that close co-ordination has been established between the Director-General of Supplies and Disposals and the Corporation with a view to encouraging the small-scale industries to manufacture suitable selected items for which there is a steady demand from the Government. I find that a lot of things are being produced by the small scale and village industries and they are not in a position to find a good market for these items. These things are accumulated in the villages without any ready market. So I would request the hon Minister to contact such of the village industries as have products required by the Ministry and plan the production.

Regarding the production of handloom and khadi, I understand that there is a lot of accumulation of stocks, specially in Madras. In my own constituency of Paramakhudi there are about 5,000 handloom weavers. I understand that handloom fabrics

worth about Rs. 15 lakhs are accumulated without scope for marketing. I request the hon. Minister to take necessary steps to see that the accumulated stocks are cleared and weavers are given some work.

I understand that the production of khadi is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Government. So I would request the Government to use handloom fabrics to some extent so that the accumulated stocks of handloom fabrics may be easily marketed or consumed by the departments of the Government.

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Ujjain): I am very glad that the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply is under the charge of a very experienced and capable Minister, and we have very great hopes from this Ministry to solve certain basic problems, as, for instance, the problem of housing.

So far as my State is concerned, a part of it, especially the area which was in the old Madhya Bharat State, is industrialised. There is the largest city of Madhya Pradesh, namely Indore; in the neighbourhood, we have Ujjain, Ratlam and Gwalior as the important industrial centres. Much work has been done in these places for industrial housing. A number of colonies have been constructed also.

But I wish to point out to the Minister that there are certain defects in these schemes. Of course, these schemes provide houses to labour. But there have been no provisions made for maternity homes, *bal mandirs*, playgrounds, or welfare centres for women and so on. These are lacking there. The Indian National Trade Union Congress in our State, which has been doing very useful and good work for a number of years, and which is renowned for its work throughout the country has undertaken to construct these things which are very important and which ought to have been included in the original scheme. They have constructed maternity homes, *bal mandirs*, *wahila* camps, playgrounds etc. but

there are no adequate arrangements for water supply and lighting. These are still lacking there. I hope the Minister would kindly look into this matter and see that the deficiencies are made up shortly.

I now come to the low income housing schemes. Sir, I come from Ujjain. I visited a certain area where houses were being constructed under this scheme, but I was really pained to see that the full amount of loan which ought to have been paid had been withheld. I can say that some of the houses are lying there half-constructed. I was told that the persons concerned were refused advances on the ground that they had let out a portion of the buildings constructed. I believe, recently, some changes have been made in the rules. Whenever the owner of the house lives in a part of the house, and lets out the other part, I think he should be permitted to do so, and the amount of loan to be advanced should not be withheld. If the amounts were to be withheld, then the result would be that the houses would not be completed, and they would not be occupied. Consequently, no income will be derived from them, and those persons would not be able to pay off the debt to Government. So, whatever amount has been withheld should be paid, so that the houses that have been built at Ujjain may be completed and then occupied or used.

The third point which I want to bring to the notice of the Minister is this. Madhya Pradesh is the second largest State in India, and Bhopal has been made the capital of that State. Formerly, Bhopal was the capital of a Part C State. The housing problem there is very acute. Very little amount has been provided in the budget for advances by way of loans. A number of houses need to be constructed there. I would request the Minister to kindly pay special attention to the problems of Bhopal and to provide a fairly large amount, so that a number of houses can be built.

[Shri Radhelal Vyas]

Of course, the State Government are trying their best to provide accommodation for the State employees, but it is difficult for them even to provide accommodation for all the State employees, because the problem is very huge and colossal one. Besides, a number of people are coming and settling down there. They have to build their houses. So, I hope that in view of the position obtaining at present the Minister would kindly re-examine the case of Bhopal and make a substantial provision, so that this intricate problem may be solved at Bhopal.

Shri S. Ghose (Burdwan) I shall primarily confine myself to the administration of the Government presses and to certain anomalies that have attracted our notice, and that seem to be unique in character.

Government owns more or less ten or eleven presses, and we are told that some more presses are going to be constructed or started. Naturally, a big number of employees work in these presses. They have been placed in 88 categories. So far as we know, the majority of these employees are not paid either according to the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission or the Whitley Commission or even at a subsistence level.

Let us take one or two examples. We find that in the case of the form-carriers and press suppliers, the grade is from Rs 30 to Rs 35. It passes one comprehension that a man should begin his career at Rs 30 and end his service with Rs 35, with Rs 3 annual increments. Even then, we must say that we are living under a Government with a very broad outlook!

Then, again take another class of employees namely the piece worker. The piece worker is paid on the basis of his work. When these persons get works I do not say that in comparison with the other workers, they get less. But if perchance they go on leave or if there is a paid holiday, they get only to the extent of Rs 18-8-0 per

month. The only thing lacking on the part of Government is that these people should have been provided with a magical wand. Otherwise, with Rs 18-8-0 per month, one cannot work wonders. Moreover, these workers are also fortunate that in our zeal for economy drive, they have not been requested to cut ten per cent from their salary of Rs 18-8-0.

Then, there is a class of employees who are called contingent labour. They serve for six or seven or eight years, and there is no confirmation or permanency or anything of that kind. The one word that is used in their case is 'regularising the service'. And when their services are regularised, their service for seven or eight years is not taken into consideration, and that is gone for nothing. They do not get the benefit of this service. These are the contingent labourers.

Then there is another peculiar system that is prevalent in this department. The one word which is used there and with which I am conversant just now is 'quasi-permanent'.

14 hrs

The employee is first of all made quasi-permanent. For quasi-permanency say the Calcutta Press authorities will have to write to the Controller. But when he is to be confirmed, it can be done by the local manager, and the matter is managed in such a way that when the recommendation of the local authority for quasi-permanency is kept pending before the Controller, the stage for permanency arrives. I fail to understand why these anomalies did not attract the notice of Ministers.

Another very nice thing that is prevalent in this department is about pension benefit. Classes I, II and IV employees get pension benefit, but not Class III.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Are not Class III workers industrial workers?

Shri S. Ghose: Yes. So far as the Government Press is concerned, if a

class IV employee is promoted to class III, he loses the benefit of pension and leave rules. The leave rules are that in the case of classes I, II and IV, the leave is allowed to be accumulated upto six months, but when a class IV employee is promoted to class III he can accumulate leave only upto three months.

If a class IV employee is promoted to class III after 20 years of service, when he completes 25 years and will be entitled to retire, he will be deprived of the benefit of pension and leave rules. That is one of the things prevalent in this department and it has not so far been tackled. The instances that I bring to the notice of the House are so small that they can be tackled within half an hour. If the Essential Services Maintenance Bill can be proceeded with at breakneck speed and passed in two days, I fail to understand how these small matters cannot be tackled.

Shri K. C. Reddy: May I intervene to say what I wanted to say in the course of my speech on this point as very strong criticism is being made by the hon. Member in regard to the terms and conditions of service of class III employees and pointed attention is being drawn to the fact that while classes I, II and IV are enjoying certain pension benefits, class III employees are not enjoying those benefits, and a suggestion is made that as in the case of the Essential Services Maintenance Bill we might act with the same speed with regard to this matter? I want to say that Government has decided that class III employees will get the same pension benefits as classes I, II and IV employees.

Shri S. Ghose: That shows that I am correct. If Government has decided now, it means that this rule is prevalent upto now. As regards the speed I have complained of, even there I am correct. This matter has been awaiting decision for the last ten years and now Government has decided, perhaps when a strike notice has been served.

Shri K. C. Reddy: No, it is not because of that.

Shri S. Ghose: Coming to medical benefits, during the influenza epidemic in Calcutta, 250 persons fell ill and there was no medicine in the dispensary. That dispensary was only a show. The hon. Minister, if he will inquire, will find that even in normal times—not abnormal times—the dispensary is starving for medicine.

Then the employees of various departments are susceptible to diseases like poisoning and T.B. Let us take one class of employees called 'metal melters'. They are affected by lead poisoning and they suffer from T.B. The Government cannot play with the lives of these people. When they are serving the Government, it is up to the Government to provide for the treatment of these persons, because employees getting such paltry sums as pay cannot be expected to make their own arrangements for treatment of such fell diseases. So this should also be done.

Then there is over-congestion in the Calcutta Press. I am told that at Satragachi a vast tract of land has been purchased by Government. If the Press is shifted there, the congestion will be removed. Moreover, construction of many houses can be undertaken, which will partially solve the housing problem too. I would request the hon. Minister to shift the Calcutta Press to Satragachi where a vast tract of land has been purchased by Government.

Another point for complaint is in respect of private contracts. Why does Government give private contracts? It might be said that the Government cannot cope with the work and therefore the system of private contracts is there. I submit there is more than meets the eye. Within the very short time at my disposal it is not possible to develop this point, but this much I can say that there was a case called the Mistaran Press case. The case is said to be pending. I would like to ask what has become of that case.

[Shri S. Ghose]

We are told that the employees implicated in the Mistrani case have been promoted. I wish the information we have received is incorrect, but the hard fact is that they have been promoted perhaps because of their implication in that shady affair.

Then the administration is top-heavy. There is a Chief Controller, Controller, Deputy Controller, Assistant Controller and—another wonderful thing—Deputy Controller, (Vigilance). If the Government wants to make it more top-heavy, it can appoint another person over the Deputy Controller (Vigilance) who can be designated Controller (Vigilance) so that he may keep vigilance over what all matters we do not know—so that in the deal with private contracts something might not come out or might not be brought to light!

These are the anomalies prevalent in the Government Press. Regarding low income housing scheme, I wanted to say something which, for want of time, I will do very briefly and dispose it of. In this respect, there are certain anomalies going on in West Bengal. Rs. 2 crores have been given by the Centre to the West Bengal Government and the West Bengal Government has spent a little over Rs. 21 lakhs. If the Centre gives the money at 4½ per cent. interest, the West Bengal Government will charge 6 per cent. I submit even if the West Bengal Government is autonomous, so far as this transaction with the Centre is concerned, it is not expected to be so autonomous. The hon. Minister, when he is giving money, has certainly a right to inquire into this matter.

Another suggestion is that land might be purchased on co-operative basis. As one friend has suggested, the question of life insurance policy should also be considered.

Lastly I want to make a humble request to Government, which I do so with some diffidence. We, who come from a place a thousand miles away,

are feeling that we are so many refugees in Delhi. North and South Avenue are there.

Mr. Chairman: That has already been dealt with by another hon. Member.

Shri S. Ghose: My case is stronger. Perhaps you know that both my legs are highly defective due to a motor accident. Shri Harwani was making a complaint that people are coming from Vinayanagar. I am coming from that place too. And I submit to the hon. Minister that if he cannot set his home here in order, is it not idle to expect that he will be able to solve the housing problem all over India?

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my experience has been that whenever a Ministry places its demands before the House that assumes a great deal of importance and, for the moment, it looks as if there is nothing more important than the activities of that Ministry. My experience today in dealing with this Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply is exactly the same.

I feel that this is one of the activities of the Government which vitally touches the common man, the people in the villages provided there is a sympathetic and realistic approach to the problem. If I were to merely go by the first Five Year Plan, I am afraid I cannot grow very enthusiastic or optimistic. I would, therefore, take this question first.

After all, we must feel something of the glow of freedom. The men in the villages must feel that freedom means something to them. Of all things, I feel that this Ministry can certainly rouse that hope in the minds of the people in the villages if only it takes it to its heart and approach the problem, as I said, in a sympathetic and realistic manner.

The first Five Year Plan, as has been already noted, hardly took notice of the question of this rural housing. I do not want to lay the blame at the door of the hon. Minister....

Dr. P. Subbarayan (Tiruchengode): He is from your own place.

Shri Dasappa: I am afraid my hon. friend Dr. Subbarayan tries to attribute that I am a little partial and...

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I hope so.

Shri Dasappa: I take a very objective view of things and, if only he has a little patience to listen to me, he will find that I am not after all so partial.

With regard to the First Five Year Plan, it did not at all take notice of this. I am not going to lay the blame at the door of the Minister because I know the hon. Minister for many years as Dr. Subbarayan says and I think he will have a ready answer that they are only the people who execute the plan.....

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have not given any answer. Why should the hon. Member imagine that I will give that answer?

Shri Dasappa: I am only anticipating an answer.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Why should we anticipate wrongly?

Shri Dasappa: If my friend takes the responsibility on himself, I will proceed on that basis. There is no objection to it. Let me proceed on the basis that the Ministry itself is responsible for this. I ask the hon. Minister: Why is it that they ignored this important question of rural housing in the First Five Year Plan? I want him to explain this.

Secondly, what is the approach to this question even in the Second Five Year Plan? After all, we have got to be answerable to our constituents. They are the crores of people who have sent us here. What has exactly been the approach of the Planning Commission or the hon. Minister with regard to this question of rural housing? When the draft Plan came, out of Rs. 120 crores, they had set apart, a magnificent sum of Rs. 5 crores for rural housing for setting right 54 million houses. Is this a thing of

which I should get proud and congratulate the Ministry? After a great deal of agitation on the part of Members of Parliament, the sum has been raised to Rs. 10 crores in the Plan.

The other day, the Finance Minister was good enough to answer that if we could spend more, he would consider granting more. I am always thankful for half a loaf where there is none. There has been some appreciation of the problem. But, even so, I would like to know how much they have spent during the first year of the Second Five Year Plan. Hardly anything. The only excuse is that the schemes are not coming forward from the States. When the Plan frame is conceived, when economists are summoned, when the State Governments and their representatives are summoned, are they drawing up a Plan merely on paper without any kind of thinking exactly whether the scheme could and should be implemented or not, whether there are sufficient resources and the personnel to execute them? I am sorry to say that the very manner of approach is indicative of the fact that they are treating this question with scant courtesy.

I hope that in the four years that are left to us, they will at least spend these 10 crores and enable the Finance Minister to make good his word of sanctioning something more. It looks to me from the pronouncement of the hon. Minister this morning that the organisation they had all these years during the First Five Year Plan was not able to cope with this work and, therefore, the hon. Minister has evolved a new set-up or organisation or a new scheme to constitute State Boards and so on and integrating the various housing schemes and bringing them under one administration. I really do not know when this new scheme is going to materialise and when the suitable machinery is going to be set up to spend these amounts. I would beg of the hon. Minister to go about this work with a considerable amount of drive to see that the State Governments implement these schemes which are incorporated in the Second Five Year Plan.

[Shri Dasappa]

I am not saying that it is only this Ministry, but it is every other Ministry also. Take the small-scale industries or so many other schemes. Most of these schemes are not implemented fully. We have the unique satisfaction of seeing something very nice in the Plan, but when it comes to a question of results, hardly there is anything. I am afraid I have taken a great deal of time on this question of rural housing. I will only say one thing before I come to other subjects.

The hon. Minister has been the Chief Minister of a State and he has ample experience as how to utilise these funds effectively. When we got into power there was what is known as the Harijan housing question, housing for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A paltry sum of Rs 3 or 4 lakhs was all that was being spent there. We took up the scheme in a dynamic way. We spent Rs 19 lakhs every year on Harijan housing. It is not a small sum, it comes to Rs 1 crore for five years, whereas for all the States for five years, there is now this sum of Rs 10 crores. There we spent one crore for one State. There was an easy way. We would ask them to bring the houses up to the roof level, the timber and roofing materials would be supplied by us. It was a very easy way and we built thousands of houses that way. It is a question of planning and enthusiastic execution of the same. I did not at all envisage that this question of rural housing is going to present a problem. I am wholly in disagreement with taking up 500 villages in the first year, 1500 next year, 3000 the next year and thus having 10,000 houses.

Shri K. C. Reddy: 10,000 villages

Shri Dasappa: Yes, 10,000 villages out of 5½ lakhs. The hon. Minister assures us that he is going to renovate 10,000 villages.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have not at all used that language; he is trying to put it into my mouth.

Shri Dasappa: I am prepared to use his own phraseology: he is going to tackle 10,000 villages in the course of the Plan period. At that rate, how many more plans do we require to tackle 55 lakhs villages?

Mr. Chairman: I think the hon. Member has got only two minutes left.

Shri Dasappa: If there is no interference from the other side, I would have finished. In the few minutes left before me, let there be no interruptions. Now, with regard to the question of housing the various offices in Delhi. This report has got a very significant statement on page 2, para 4:

“Due to the reorganisation of the States, this Ministry undertook the work relating to the shifting of various Government offices to previous capitals of the States, where adequate arrangements both for office and residential accommodation, were assured by the various State Governments. For this purpose, a small section was created in the Ministry proper, under another Officer on Special Duty.”

What is the object of having this unit? What is the co-operation promised by the State Governments? How many offices have been removed from Delhi to other places? When we are building new buildings, why not build them in other places so that these offices may be located there? Why crowd everything here?

With regard to the question of planning of Delhi, I have been watching right in front of the Secretariat and the Parliament House—magnificent buildings, two box-like buildings have cropped up. I feel that they are not in consonance with the architectural beauty of the place and I hope similar buildings would not come up though other kinds of buildings more becoming may come up.

With regard to the slum clearance, prevention is always better than cure. Government may undertake to spend

some crores and try to improve them. But, I am absolutely sure that it will not be able to do this unless the whole mentality of the people undergoes a revolutionary change. What attempts are being made to prevent the growth of slums where there are none today I see no such plan at all. This problem requires not a dilutant approach, it requires a far more serious and comprehensive approach than hitherto conceived. The Centre is giving grants to the States. When so much money is being spent in the States for this purpose, the Centre should have on these boards representatives of this Ministry who could keep vigilance over the manner of expenditure. They can also see that similar problems do not arise hereafter.

I am glad to notice that this work-charged establishment is going to be treated more generously hereafter. They are going to be made permanent.

Before I conclude, I will only say one thing. This PWD has been characterised by Rajaji—a great friend of Dr. Subbarayan also—as public enemy No. 1. It is true that it comes in for a large portion of the blame. They have got a vigilance section. I have turned over the pages and I find that over one hundred cases have been handled. Over 90 per cent, I find, are given warning or censure and things left like that. Either a man has committed a mistake or not. In many cases it appears that oral warning is given, and that is all. It only shows that it is not fulfilling its purpose adequately. Where we find that something goes wrong, more drastic punishment has to be meted out so that we are able to maintain purity of administration and prevent corruption. Anyway, I have great pleasure in according my full support to these Demands.

Shri N. B. Maiti (Ghatal) I congratulate this Ministry for taking steps to tackle the rural housing problem. My friend here suggested that it was very slow. Certainly it is very slow but even then, better slow than never. I believe that our nation and we ourselves are learning by experience. For

hundreds of years, we had no administrators. We did not regulate the affairs of this country. Other people regulated the affairs of our country on our behalf. Certainly, if the Ministers falter or if they make some delay, they cannot be hanged. The matter may be put before them or they may be mildly rebuked, but they cannot be put on the scaffold and hanged. Of course, if anybody else would have been in charge of affairs he or she might have done the same fault or made the same delay. Therefore, I congratulate the Ministry for bringing forward a new scheme for rural housing.

In the scheme I find that though certain good measures have been put forward, one thing is lacking. Some sort of subsidy has to be given to the people. We have found from experience that when we tried the small irrigation schemes on a 1/3 2/3 basis, that is, the Government paying two-third as subsidy and the people paying one-third as their subscription, the scheme worked very well. From 1947 to 1952 we have found in certain States, I am referring particularly to West Bengal, small irrigation schemes started on that basis were in great progress and people enthusiastically responded to work out those schemes on that line with the result that production improved to a very great extent. Somehow or other that scheme was abandoned, I understand, in pursuance of the directions from the Central Government.

In the case of rural housing it has to be seen whether some sort of subsidy can be given. People do not know that their conditions have got to be improved, that the village lay-out has got to be put on an improved scale. If they are asked to clear their drains, to improve their small roads, to improve their sanitary conditions, I do not think they will respond much unless they are induced with some sort of subsidy—say, two-third and one-third or something like that. I believe in the matter of housing also some sort of subsidy, say 25 per cent or 33 per cent, has got to be brought forward. This scheme might continue.

[Shri N. B. Maiti]

not for an indefinite period but for three, four or five years. After that the people will be educated to have better housing and living conditions. They will know the good results that come out of these things and they themselves will come forward, take advantage of loans and other things and will do things as we want them to do

14.34 hrs.

[SHRI C R PATTABHI RAMAN in the Chair]

Therefore, in the features of the proposed rural housing scheme I would suggest that it should be considered whether some sort of subsidy should be included or not

The previous speaker, Shri Dasappa, spoke most eloquently on the importance of rural housing. Coming as I do from rural areas, I believe that he gave expression to the true feeling of all villages people. After all, India lives in villages, and we cannot do without the help and co-operation of the village people. Of course, we have to build good hotels like Ashoka and Janpath, and we shall also have to go to the rescue of our clerks and our workcharged staff, there is no doubt about that. But, if all the money that can be brought forward is to be spent on these things, in giving facilities and giving ameliorating measures to these intermediaries, if I may say so, then what will percolate to the people for whom the Government exists?

After all, the Government is of the people and for the people. If everything is spent for those who run the Government, then what will be left for those for whom the Government is meant? Therefore, I would suggest that out of Rs. 120 crores that has been allotted in the Second Five Year Plan and of which a large amount has been allotted for industrial housing,—that is good—low-income group housing etc, the allotment of Rs. 10 crores for rural housing has got to be increased

We have got a paper from the Ministry in which it has been stated that Rs 34 crores will be brought forward for the purpose of rural housing, taking also the contribution to be made by the Home Ministry for Scheduled Castes and tribals, and also the contribution from the Ministry for Community Development.

There are 54 million houses in the country, and all houses have got to be re-modelled, repaired or something like that. I am not speaking of the 54 millions, I am speaking of those poor people who live in the villages, how we can be of any help to them. When we go to our constituencies shall we be able to tell them that if they come forward to build or repair their houses with Rs 50, Rs. 100 or Rs 200 the Government of India will come through the State Government with Rs 50 or so to help them? That is the crucial point. It will not be money spent in vain, because the money will be spent for the uplift of the poor people in the rural areas

My friend Shri Dasappa has spoken very well of the hon Minister. He is a worthy Minister, a very well known man. I was not personally acquainted with him, but I have found him very keen, very enthusiastic and very industrious in his work. I have been acquainted with him for a few days. I would request him to see whether he could come to our help and rescue in this respect, and whether he could do that now, so that after going from this session we can say to our constituencies that here is our Minister, here is the Ministry, and the Minister has come forward with a scheme of subsidy for the indigent people of the country and the indigent people of all classes—not only of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes or the backward classes but of all classes including all creeds. The Mussalmans should also have the opportunities and the caste Hindus also might have the opportunities provided that they are indigent and provided their houses require to be repaired or be built with a small amount of money. That is the crucial point.

I thank you very much for kindly giving me some time to speak on this subject

Mr. Chairman: There are a few more hon Members to speak, and the hon Minister will start answering soon after 3 o'clock I request the hon Member to finish soon

Shri N. B. Maiti: I have finished

Dr. K. B. Menon (Badagara) I wish to confine my remarks to housing because of its growing importance arising from the fact that it is one of the three elementary needs of man. With the increasing problem of population, this problem is getting more and more acute almost every day. There is a Rent Control Authority in every city and in every town and even in small towns, and when the supply is far, far below the demand, it is not surprising that fair and unfair pressure is brought upon the Rent Control Authority in the allocation of houses. My submission, in order to save these authorities some embarrassment and in order to keep the good name of the Government itself and also to render better service to the people, is that the target fixed for the second Five Year Plan, particularly by the Central Government, namely, 80 per cent increase in housing in Delhi, should not be reduced.

In making my remarks on housing, I would like to speak on three aspects of it—urban housing, rural housing and slum clearance. Dealing with urban housing, I would like to restrict my remarks to Delhi for a number of reasons. Delhi is the capital city and it is under the direct control of the Central Government, and Delhi is typical in the sense that it is a growing city where you find all starata of population. I would like to take the cue from my colleague the Member from West Bengal and repeat that if a Central Government fails in Delhi, there is no hope of setting things elsewhere. Coming to Delhi, a survey was conducted by my party in 1956 and according to its findings there are 7,000 pavement dwellers in Delhi. There was a report submitted by Birla,

I believe, in 1951, and according to him, six lakhs of people were without homes. Since 1951, there has been considerable increase in population, and on a reasonable estimate, we might say that there must be double that number now needing housing. We may put the conservative estimate at about two lakhs of houses needed in the city of Delhi.

Coming back to figures on housing in Delhi my information is that from what I have gathered, nearly 73 per cent of the Class IV employees of the Central Government are without accommodation. About 70 per cent of the salaried people below Rs 500 have also no proper accommodation. Then again, there are about 35 per cent of those drawing a thousand rupees and above and who have no proper accommodation. I am not able to read out the other figures for my own personal reasons. Because of this acute shortage of housing in Delhi, those who have been fortunate to get houses naturally sublet part of the quarters to others. They support others sometimes out of consideration, sometimes for more tangible returns. These returns do not always come in the form of cash payment, but sometimes they take the shape of payment in kind in the way of service. Thus, according to my information, happens more in the upper strata for the reasons that they have got more room to spare—maybe servant's quarters or maybe some garage or something of that kind. About 10 per cent of the salary, I believe, is allowed for rent and part of this may be probably realised in this way. My information is that 15 to 25 per cent, and sometimes even exceeding that, nearly, 35 to 40 per cent, of the salary of particularly lower income group people go in the payment of rent, because of the extreme shortage of accommodation. For all these reasons, I submit that the Government should not bring down the target and that the target fixed in the second Five Year Plan should be maintained.

What I have stated so far with regard to Delhi is true of most other towns in our country. It is the small

[Dr. K. B. Menon]

income group that suffers. Just to substantiate my statement, I would like to quote a figure that I have from the Corporation of Madras where—I am leaving out again the details—86 per cent. of salaried people drawing a salary below Rs. 100 have to share 29 per cent. of the houses that are available for distribution. When we come to higher income groups, .02 per cent. of the higher income groups share 33 per cent. of the houses. The figures there substantiate what I have said in connection with Delhi namely the acute problem of housing shortage that we are facing all over the country. Therefore, the hon. Minister must pay particular attention to this aspect of the problem with regard to the urban areas.

With regard to slum clearance, I wish to dispose of it in a few minutes, because I wish only to point out that slum clearance should not mean slum removal from the cities. The so-called slums oftentimes—and I am talking from my experience of the South—occupy in the cities, the Government land. They are served with notice to quit, and even if they are given notice to quit, my submission is that those people should not be given a place far away from the cities which will make it difficult for them to go for their work in the cities or towns.

With regard to rural housing, I would like to say a few words. Our villages are the basis of national life and, as I said in some other connection, it is very necessary that we pay special attention to rural areas. We used to make complaints against the British during the struggle period and I know how much stress we were placing on villages and rural areas. After we attained independence, I do not believe that we have lived up to our promises to the villagers. I do not think that we have improved or tried to improve the amenities in the villages or to improve the general life of the villager to the extent that one would have expected the Government to do.

I am glad that there are many a schemes but I am sorry that they are not being worked out well. If they are properly worked out, they hold out hopes for better villages. I was interested in hearing this morning the hon. Minister, in answer to a question, say that, the housing problem will be handled by the NES blocks. My submission in that connection is that a few blocks with which I am connected have not dealt with that problem so far. They have not even handled the problem of the Harijan housing, for which, I believe, there is a subsidy offered by the Central as well as the State Governments. There is plenty of scope for service in the villages, if that work is undertaken by the NES blocks.

I was looking through the report for 1955-56, where I found Rs. 5 crores allotted for rural housing and the same report gives as actual payment a very small amount. That report also said that four villages were taken for pilot projects, one in Punjab, one in PEPSU, one in U.P. and one in Rajasthan. In the report for 1956-57, I thought there would be a further report on the work done at least in these four villages, but nothing is given, excepting the fact that the department gave some project advice to Erode in the South. My information in this connection is that in the case of the village in Punjab, about 40 houses were built. That is a very poor achievement for one year, especially when only four villages were taken for experiment in the whole of India.

My submission in this connection is that because of the differences in the kind of life in the villagers and in the habits of life of the people in the different parts of India, model villages ought to be taken not only in four States, but at least one village should be taken in every State in the Union. One village in every State even means nothing, when we have 5½ lakhs villages scattered all over the length and breadth of the country. At least one experiment should be conducted in

every State and sufficient propaganda and publicity given to it in every State in the Union, but instead of that, Government have taken only four villages in four States and even in those four villages I am sorry to say, Government have neglected in carrying out this work. If crores of rupees are left like that unused. I do not know whether it will not lapse. I am not sure about that; the Minister may give me the information.

Whatever that be, my submission is that rural areas should be given more attention than what is being given to them now and that responsibility of housing should be entrusted to the NES blocks; they should be not only entrusted with it, but they should be alerted by the Central Government that substantial projects may be started in every State in the Union. The work should not be slackened in any way at all.

Shri Kodiyan (Quilon—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I wish to say only a few words about rural housing. As several hon. Members have already pointed out, the funds allocated for rural housing in the second Five Year Plan are quite insufficient in view of the fact that the problem of rural housing is immense and of great urgency.

During the first Plan this important problem of rural housing was practically neglected. It is said that out of the 54 million rural houses, almost 90 per cent. of them are to be either reconstructed or reconditioned. Such is the deplorable condition in which people in the rural areas are forced to live. When we go to the rural areas and introduce schemes for improving rural housing, we cannot abstain our attention from the fact that it is the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes people that are forced to live in rural areas in inhuman conditions. Most of the huts inhabited by these backward class people, especially Scheduled Caste people, are one-roomed huts, where they are living along with their cattle also. So, in any attempt at improving the housing conditions in the rural areas, priority should be given to the question of housing of the Scheduled Caste people. It is not

merely a question of providing some loans or aid to the Scheduled Caste people, but it is a question of providing land free of cost to them, because most of these people are landless agricultural labourers, with not even a single inch of land of their own to live on. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to make a special provision for providing free lands to the Scheduled Caste people in the rural areas, apart from the loans and other aid given for construction of houses.

Another point I wish to state in this connection is the question of making arrangements for utilising the local building materials in rural areas. So far as the building materials that are necessary for rural housing are concerned, they are more cheaper than the materials needed for urban housing. Because, scarce materials that are needed for building houses, like cement and other things, are not so much needed in rural house construction. Arrangements should be made to tap the locally available materials to the maximum extent. For this purpose, training-cum-production centres should be established in various parts of the country.

15 hrs.

Another point to which I should like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is the exorbitant rent that is prevalent in Delhi, under his very nose. I need not go into the details of the serious housing problem in Delhi. Several hon. Members have already pointed out the acuteness of the problem of housing in Delhi. The failure of the Government to provide accommodation for their own employees and the increase in the population of Delhi year by year have made the accommodation problem very acute. In the last two or three years, rent has increased from 50 to 200 per cent. in Delhi. The Rent Control Act is not extended to houses newly built after 1955. As a result, our capital has been virtually a paradise for the landlords.

In spite of the Rent Control Act, landlords resort to several methods of exerting pressure on the tenants and squeezing the maximum rent possible.

[Shri Kodyan]

Fifteen to twenty per cent. of the monthly monetary income of ordinary people is being squeezed from them as rent. In certain cases, the rent comes to about 40 per cent. also. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to extend the Rent Control Act to the newly-built houses in Delhi, that is, houses built after 1955 and also to make sufficient provisions in the law to prevent the flouting of the law by the landlords.

There are so many methods to which the landlords resort, to bring pressure and squeeze the maximum rent from the tenants. What a landlord who wants to get more rent from the tenant generally does is this. He gives notice to the tenant saying that he wants the building for his own use or that he wants to repair that building. After some hesitation, when the tenant approaches him saying that no other accommodation is available and so he must be allowed to remain in the building, the landlord will allow him to stay in the house on condition that more rent should be paid to him. If this did not succeed, he will approach the concerned authority and get an order from him for repairing the house and the poor tenant is forced to go out of the house, to go out of Delhi itself, 10, or 12 miles away, to the rehabilitation colonies or some other places. When he returns, he is asked to pay more rent. Therefore, the question of controlling the rent at a reasonable level is of utmost importance and urgency. I would again request the hon. Minister to look into this problem very seriously.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Mr. Chairman, I have listened with deep interest to the dozen and odd hon. Members who have participated in this debate and referred to various aspects of the activities of the departments under my Ministry. I have listened to their speeches with deep interest and, may I say, with profit, and excepting for a spark here or there, I think I will be correct if I say that, by and large, the remarks that have fallen from the lips of the hon. Members have been of a constructive and helpful nature.

During the last few months that it has been my privilege to hold charge of this Ministry, I have been trying to acquaint myself with the various problems that confront us, and endeavouring to devise ways and means to discharge satisfactorily the various services that are expected from a Ministry of this kind. As one hon. Member put it, this is a Ministry that comes into constant touch with people of all categories and unless the officers, those who are in charge of the work of this Ministry, every one, from the topmost man to the very small person in the category of servant, is on his toes, as it were, and endeavours his utmost to give satisfactory service, naturally, there is bound to be some dissatisfaction.

It has often been said, for example, taking the C.P.W.D., that it is a public waste department, or this department or that kind of department. But, our endeavour will be to make it really a public welfare department—P.W.D. I hope, before long, in about 6 months' time or 1 year or 2 years or 3 years, the atmosphere will be so changed that we will have the pleasure of hearing from others also that satisfactory steps have been taken to make this department really a welfare department.

The problems that have been referred to during the debate, if I may say so, most of them, had come to my notice during the last three months ever since I began to give my attention to the problems and other matters connected with this Ministry. I should not be understood to say that it is for the first time, after I took charge of this Ministry, that attention began to be focussed on the various vital aspects concerned in the administration of these various departments. Constant endeavours were being made and there have been varying degrees of success in respect of the satisfactory solution of the various problems. What is being done by the Ministry at present

is to carry forward those activities with greater vigour, with greater enthusiasm, keeping in tune with the desire and demands of the people at large, and to intensify our efforts to give better results. That is what we are attempting to do at the present moment.

Several aspects have been referred to in the course of the debate. Much as I would like to refer to them, because of limitation of time, I must perforce confine myself to a few major ones. If I have the time, to do so, I will be able to refer to minor points as well. But, if I am unable to refer to minor points, I shall see to it that the hon. Members who have raised those minor points receive information in due course either by correspondence or otherwise as to what exactly is the position with regard to them, what the Government has done and what the Government propose to do with regard to them.

My hon. friend Shri Easwara Iyer, who led the debate highlighted the conditions of service of the work-charged establishment particularly in the CPWD.

I had intended to refer to the housing problem first and to refer to the various aspects of this very complicated problem, very important and very vital problem but I thought later that it is perhaps better that I take up this employer-employee relation question first for the simple reason that during the last two-three weeks of the country, the Parliament and everyone have been more or less intensely absorbed in this question of employer-employee relationship. You are all aware as to what thought has been given to this problem during the recent weeks. You are all aware of the various aspects that were brought to the notice of the authorities, to the Government, and we have been discussing certain vital aspects relating to this problem during the last few weeks and Government, if I may say so, the whole Government, have been giving very earnest and close attention to this employer-employee problem and after constant deliberation, very earnest deliberation, Government have come to certain conclusions

and have decided to make a particular kind of approach towards an appropriate solution, a satisfactory solution of this very vexed problem.

I do not want to go on this occasion into the various details of the decisions that the Government have taken, but I would like to say this that no one is more interested than Government in creating conditions of service which will give complete satisfaction, at least maximum satisfaction if not complete satisfaction, to the employees who are working as a limb of the Government, if only for extracting efficient service from the people who are paid from the Government exchequer to serve the people. I do not claim for the Government that we have done all that we could have done and I do not claim perfection for the Government though Government can claim perfection for itself. But while our endeavour has been of a certain nature and of a certain degree, I would like to say that during the last few weeks we have intensified our efforts and we are trying by various methods and by making various approaches to give this problem the thought that it deserves and to evolve formulas and to devise methods whereby we do not have to sit up only when trouble starts or when the strike has been notified, as one hon. Member put it, but it has been engaging our constant attention all along the line. And speaking for my own Ministry, I can tell the hon. Members that since the last three months if anything has occupied my attention, if anything has occupied more of my time than any other subject, it is this subject of employer-employee relations. I have spent hours and days over this problem and I am happy to say that with the willing co-operation and assistance of my officers and with the co-operation of the employees' unions, we have come to a stage where I can modestly claim that we have solved some of the problems that were pending since a long time, perhaps owing to good reasons.

So far as the CPWD work-charged staff are concerned, I have discussed with the unions over the last two-

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three months on several occasions their problems and I should not be considered to be immodest if I were to say that the representatives of these unions have come to me and said that by and large they are satisfied with the various problems that have been tackled and while they are thankful for what has already been done and what is proposed to be done, they look forward with hope that their remaining problems also will be solved to their satisfaction. I would like to assure the employees' unions that the remaining problems also will be solved according to their hope, if not to their full satisfaction. In this connection I would like to say this. The hon. Member, Mr. Easwara Iyer, has referred to a number of demands that have been pending since a long time so far as C.P.W.D. work charged staff is concerned. I have got that list. I have also got a list of demands in respect of which we have been able to meet their grievances and a list of demands in respect of which we have to wait for some time to come before we take a final decision.

Several cut motions have been given by Mr. Easwara Iyer. Out of the 46 or 47 cut motions that have been received, practically about 50 per cent., if not a greater per cent., relate to the conditions of service of the C.P.W.D. work charged staff, about whom during the last few weeks we have been able to take many decisions. I am not going to refer to all of them. I will not refer to minor matters like granting of tools allowance or sanctioning of uniforms or compensatory allowance in special localities etc. etc. They seem to be more or less of a minor nature and I can only say this that more than 50 per cent., nearly 75 per cent., of the demands of the employees have been more or less conceded.

With regard to the main issue, namely, that of treating the work charged establishment people as regular employees, I would like to say this. I do not want to go into the history of the work charged establishment, why such an establishment

came up, how it grew, its genesis, its obligations, its present position, its future prospects etc. I do not think this is the time to weary the House with such aspects of the question. The work charged establishment, as its very designation shows, grew round certain works sanctioned from time to time and the assumption is that when the work is closed down this establishment would not be ordinarily needed. But we have found by experience during the last 30 or 40 years that certain categories of the work charged establishment staff have been kept on in service because the tempo of work has increased and certain categories of people have been continuing more or less in constant service though they have been deemed to be merely temporary work charged establishment people. That is the problem. What to do about it? We have given considerable thought to this question during the last few years and I am happy to say that we have come to a conclusion as to how to approach this question.

So far as the non-industrial employees are concerned, who are part of this establishment—about 2,000 or 2,500; I am not sure about the figures—I am glad to say that a decision has been taken that that part of the work charged establishment will be converted into regular service of the Government and their staff will get the same treatment as the other regular employees of the Government of India. With regard to the balance, namely, industrial workers, out of the 10,000 and odd that will remain, about 50 per cent., if not a slightly higher figure than that, who have put in three years of continuous service will be declared to be permanent and all of them will get the benefits that accrue to Government employees who are declared to be permanent; that is to say, they get the same leave, same dearness allowance and other facilities that regular government employees get. With regard to the remaining people, we are trying to see what could be done like quasi-permanency

and so on and so forth. Anyway, I am in a position to claim that we have made some rational approaches towards a solution of this problem and I hope that the employees will be more satisfied than dissatisfied with the approach that we are making in this question and, in course of time, if there are any difficulties, we will try to solve these difficulties to our mutual satisfaction.

I said that tools and maintenance allowances have been sanctioned. The order has been issued and I do not want to weary the House with the scale of allowance that we have sanctioned.

Then a point was made by hon. Member that these workers should be treated in the same way as other Government employees in corresponding salary scales. It has been agreed that the Government contribution to the contributory provident fund shall be raised from 6½ per cent. to 8-1/3 per cent as it is prevailing in some other departments of the Government of India. This concession will be allowed to the Central P.W.D. press workers.

There are a number of other matters in respect of which we have taken a decision and I do not want to take up the time of the House by reading all of them. I hope that as a result of this approach to this question, there will be cordial relations between the employers and the employees. In this connection, while our approach to this question as a Government is a friendly one, I would like to make an appeal to the employees to go about their work in a disciplined way and to give full value for the wages that are paid to them, by way of satisfactory work. That is by the way. //

While I am on this subject of employer-employee relations I would like to say a word about the press workers. Several points have been made by the hon. Member from Bengal about the unsatisfactory condition of service of the press workers. I think their demands have been very few,

just about half a dozen or so, if I may say so. And two or three of them are such that they have to be dealt with ultimately by the Pay Commission which has just been constituted, as, for instance, revision of pay-scales, dearness allowances, merger of dearness allowance with pay, and so on. The Pay Commission which has been constituted will be seized of all these questions.

The main demand of the employees, to which we have been giving attention during the last few days is that class III workers who are industrial workers should get the same pensionary benefits as class I, II, III and IV servants are getting. If I were to go into the history of this question, it will be an interesting one. Before 1920, these class III servants were getting pension. They voluntarily came forward and said, we do not want pension benefits, we would like to have recourse to contributory provident fund scheme. Then, the pension scheme was made more attractive; then, they said, we would like to come back to the pension scheme. This is the history of this matter. But I am glad to say, as I said earlier when I intervened, that Government have taken a decision that these class III servants should be treated on the same footing as class I, II, III and IV servants are treated, and they should be given these pension benefits.

My hon friend was uncharitable to say that Government did this because there was a strike notice. Even if it were so, he could have been a little thankful; he could have expressed a word of praise or thankfulness for what has been done. I do not mind it, so long as the press employees have got it, so long as the press employees' demand has been met, I, not only as a member of Government today, but also as an ex-trade union worker, am happy that they have got it, and I would like to share their pleasure myself, and not criticise that Government could have done this long ago, but they have done this with bad grace, and so on and so forth. It is left to

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the choice of each individual hon. Member, what language he should use, and how he should express it. I should not quarrel with my hon. friend on this score. That is all that I can say about it.

Certain other decisions have been taken with regard to one or two other matters concerning the press employees, but I would not like to go into the details, and I shall leave the matter at this. Other matters also which are being pressed on behalf of the employees by the unions are being given very careful attention by Government.

So far as the C.P.W.D. is concerned, some hard words have been said. These hard words have become so routine in the sense that they are being said, I do not know, for the last how many years, that one finds it difficult to exactly measure their value. I have been hearing the same thing about the C.P.W.D., since I was a lad of ten; for about forty years and more, I have heard the same thing from several platforms, from several persons, highly-placed as well as lowly-placed. I would plead for some charity....

Shri V. P. Nayar: Give us an occasion.

Shri K. C. Reddy:for some objective view of the whole picture, and not to take a dark spot in a picture, and say the whole picture is dark. That is not fair. That is not, I think, the proper way of looking at things.

I am conscious, and I am aware, that all is not perfect in the C.P.W.D. If I may say so, all is not perfect with anyone of us. All is not perfect with Government; all is not perfect with any other sphere of activity in which the country is engaged. So, we have to very carefully find out what exactly the disease is and then apply the remedy. The remedy is the toning up of the morale of the whole nation, if I may say so, broadly speaking.

Shri M. P. Mishra (Begusarai): That is a very hackneyed phrase.

Shri K. C. Reddy: But that will take time. It is a very vast problem. It is a national problem.

Shri M. C. Jain: If the Minister would compare the standard of the officer in his department with that of an officer in any other department, of the same rank, he will see the corruption prevalent in his department.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is not so much the nature of the officials of the various departments. It is more the nature of the work that these departments do. The nature of the work that the C.P.W.D. does is different from the nature of the work that the other departments do, and this raises all sorts of complications and opportunities, or temptations or whatever they may be, both for acts of inviting criticism and also temptations for others to criticise.

We have got a proverb in our language—I think there is a similar proverb in the other language too—that if a person even drinks butter-milk under a date tree, it will be said that he is drinking toddy. So, whatever the C.P.W.D. may do under any circumstances, it so happens that it is said that there is something wrong there, and there is corruption there.

Anyway, I should not be understood as saying that I am making out a case that there is no corruption in the C.P.W.D. The very fact that we have too many checks and counter-checks in the C.P.W.D. is precisely to avoid this corruption. We have got tender schedules. We have got so many specifications, and so on and so forth; we have elaborate forms prepared for this purpose. Then, we have got the supervisory organisation. Then, we have got the vigilance organisation. The latest one is the Technical Audit Cell, which is independent of the C.P.W.D.....

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan (Coimbatore): It is all disorganisation.

Shri K. C. Reddy:where technical men have been appointed with a view to check and examine and see

from time to time and to bring to light the defects in the working of the department. We have got, therefore, these checks and counter-checks. And why? We have them because it has been found that there is something wrong which has got to be checked.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

So, all this organisation has grown up. It has been our endeavour to do all these things in order to tone up the organisation.

One hon. Member said that the vigilance organisation is not doing enough vigilance work. The House is aware, I suppose that a few weeks ago, when it came to the notice of Government that some Vinaynagar flats had not been built up to specifications, and that there was something wrong there, we had our Chief Technical Examiner to go into this question; he examined the whole thing, made enquiries, and then submitted a report. And the House is aware that, on a humanitarian view, however much we did not like to take action on the officers, yet, in the interests of the department, and in the interests of the public, we had to suspend about eight officers; and we have suspended them. This is the result of the vigilance work that has been going on in recent years.

Shri Dasappa: May I know what is meant by oral warnings?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am not yielding to the hon. Member. I am sorry I have got very little time.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I ask one question of the Minister? He may yield to me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Minister is not yielding to anyone.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The hon. Member took exception when I intervened and said one or two things when he was speaking, and I would not like the hon. Member to intervene when I am speaking.

Shri V. P. Nayar: If I may interrupt the Minister, may I ask one thing?

The Minister says that there are so many checks and counter-checks, schedules and what not, for checking up the work. How is it that in spite of so many checks and counter-checks and schedules, the contractors are always able to quote far less than the estimates, unless it be that they use the wrong material and get the work approved by some nefarious ways?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I welcome this intervention of the hon. Member because he has really posed a very important issue.

We are up against this problem now. It is true that the contractors quote below schedule rates, and that has resulted in bad quality of work, public agitation and Government having to set up inquiries to go to the root of the matter. So this is a very complicated problem. We have to be constantly balancing one thing against the other and then adopting means and methods in order to tone up the whole thing and give better service to the country.

With regard to C.P.W.D., I would like to refer to one or two matters before I go to housing. The objectives that the P.W.D. should have before it, according to my humble judgement after having had some experience with this department in the last four months or so, are economy, speed, promptness and quality. There should be economy in building, at every stage. There should be quality work and there should be promptness in constructing these buildings according to time schedule, and there should also be promptness in payment of the claims of contractors or whosoever it might be. I suppose the department has been keeping these three objectives in view and I hope it will keep them in view more and more in future with a view to obviate or prevent the constant criticisms that come not only from the public but, I am free to confess, from other sister departments and Ministries at some time or other, and certain other sources.

[Shri K. C. Reddy]

But I would like to say that it is not as if the CPWD only is exclusively to blame for delay or this or that. Other agencies also come into the picture, and it is the job of one who is in charge of this work to find out where all the difficulties are, how much of them is due to the CPWD, and then plug all the holes and make the whole thing a more foolproof organisation to give better and better service in this particular sphere of national activity.

A suggestion was made that a high power committee should be set up to go into this whole question. The idea is tempting and I would like to give it every consideration. In the past, we have set up committees like that. But whether a committee of that kind is necessary at this stage or could be set up at a later stage, and if so, what should be its work and whether the results that could be achieved from such committee would be commensurate with the efforts that are put in—all these questions will have to be considered. I would only say now that I would like to give it my most earnest consideration.

Something was said about contract system, that it should be abolished.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The earlier it is done away with the better.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Several Members referred to it. May I invite the attention of the House to the report on the CPWD and Central Water and Power Commission by a committee presided over by Shri Kasturbhai Lal-bhai? This is not a very old report, being made in 1952. After going through the whole question, this is what the Committee has said:

"We have also examined the extent to which work should be executed departmentally as against execution through contractors, and our view is that departmental execution except in respect of works of small size, is

not likely to be economical. The present procedure under which all important construction work is given out on contract should, therefore, continue.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What is the date?

Shri K. C. Reddy: 1952.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Was it before the 'socialist pattern' or after that?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Constant interruptions in this way should not be there.

Shri K. C. Reddy: "We consider it however important"—this is a matter we are taking up currently—"that contracts should more and more be awarded only to contractors who have the requisite qualified staff for supervising the work and who employ such staff on a permanent basis."

In other words, they have suggested well known, reputed engineering firms who have taken up this work. I know of some in South India and Western India but unfortunately there is no such firm of contractors in Delhi. Perhaps we have to encourage the constitution of such companies who have got engineering talent and who can give good service.

So this question has been gone into very carefully and the considered recommendation of the Committee is that the contract system should continue. After all, how can we be sure that departmental execution will result in better economy? How can we be sure that departmental execution will be free from corruption? How can we be sure that departmental execution will, by and large, result in all good and no evil? These are all matters which have to be considered carefully. Even supposing we nationalise the building industry, what happens (*Interruptions*)?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Constant interruptions will take away the time of the debate.

Shri V. P. Nayar: That is why we do not stand to interrupt.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Apart from all these considerations, the question simply is this: nationalise construction; let Government take up the whole business of construction. If I may say so, Government has got so many things on hand today, so many projects and plans to be executed, so many more important and vital things, that I for my part would not like to take up this building activity also dispensing with all contractors at one stroke of the pen. We should give it further consideration and for the present, I do not think I am in a position to hold out any assurance that the contract system will be done away with.

Regarding C.P.W.D., I do not think I need say anything more. I have got every hope that the C.P.W.D. will live down the unjust allegations that are being made against it and will show a clean slate and will be above suspicion in every matter and that very soon we will have the pleasure of hearing from hon. Members that there is no room or occasion for complaints.... (*Interruptions*).

In this connection, I would like to invite the co-operation of hon. Members and the general public. If there is any instance of corruption of a glaring or minor nature and if hon. Members or the informants take the trouble to find out whether there is some substratum of truth in such complaint and then bring it to the notice of the higher authorities in C.P.W.D. or the officials in the Ministry or to my colleague or to myself, I hold out the assurance that we will pursue the matter and wherever punishment is deserved, we will mete out punishment irrespective of consequences. After all, the country's interests are higher than those of a particular individual, A, B or C. So I would like to invite the co-operation of hon. Members and others to bring to our notice such instances and we promise that we will try our very best to track down the culprits and deal with them.

In this connection, Shri Easwara referred to an instance. That is a Supplies and Disposals case which has nothing to do with C.P.W.D., and that is 12 years old—that happened in 1946. Since then, much water has flowed through the Ganges.... (*Interruptions*).

Shri Easwara Iyer: What I was saying was that in spite of so many years having elapsed, no action seemed to have been taken.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry. I have not got the time to read the whole report. But I have a document. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Interruptions can make the debate livelier. But this constant commentary is not permissible. I cannot persuade myself to believe that some hon. Members are helpless and though they make their best efforts to restrain themselves, they cannot do so.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have got a document here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He ought to show the document to me and address me.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is about this particular case.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Otherwise, he invites trouble.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am addressing him through you, Sir.

I have got here full information as to how this case has been dealt with and I think it will take a lot of the time of the House to read it.

Shri Ranga: It was disposed of so long ago

Shri K. C. Reddy: But, I am willing to pass this on to the hon. Member who made a reference to that particular instance. What all I can say is Government have taken all possible steps in regard to this matter and it is not as if the book is closed. We are still pursuing the matter and I do not know how it will end. This is a very

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old case and that too relating to disposals. To base one's case on this and make an allegation of corruption in the C P W D is what I cannot understand. I won't say more about it.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I was not doing that.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I would now proceed to housing. This is a very vital matter affecting the nation. My hon friend, Shri Dasappa with whom I had the privilege of working in the same cabinet knows me and I know him very well.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even then none yields to the other.

Shri K. C. Reddy: He was rather very eloquent here over the fact that the glow of freedom should be felt by the rural population. Not only the glow but I would like to use a much better word, not for the sake of rhetoric. I would like to say really that the rural people should enjoy benefit of freedom in an increasing and ever increasing degree in all respects, not only in respect of housing. I think I am more a villager than my hon friend. I have lived in a village even after coming out of the college, for a good number of years and I claim to know the rural problem somewhat. I would like to say in all earnestness that I am proud is possible to give them to do whatever is possible to give the maximum of amenities and service to our suffering rural human brethren. There can be no mistake about it. The Community Project Administration is one of the major activities which are mainly intended for the benefit of the rural areas. There are so many other schemes also.

Coming to rural housing, it is a stupendous problem. There are 5 lakhs and odd villages and so many houses—I cannot calculate their number readily—and on a modest estimate, if we want to do something about this matter, worth the while, it will require Rs 2,500 crores, if not Rs 4,000 crores.

We have been talking about the Five Year Plan, we have been talking about our resources; we have been talking about priorities etc. To tackle it satisfactorily, a sum of the order of Rs 2,500 to Rs 4,000 crores is needed.

Let me say what my experience was some 6 or 9 months ago when I went to Russia. I had a useful time there and I was looked after very well. I had occasion to meet a number of high dignitaries there. I had discussions with many of them, not excluding the highest of them in the Governmental field. When we were discussing, I put one of them a question. What is it they have been able to do with regard to rural housing? The reply that I got was that they had other matters to look to though they had been tackling that during the last five Five Year Plans. "Now, we have no particular grandiose scheme. All that we are doing today is to give them some material and other aid for the villagers themselves to put up their buildings." If that information is old and out of date and if there are any other documents or materials available to our hon friends, I would be happy to know them. This is the first-hand information that I have got so far. Rural housing is concerned in Russia, about what Russia has been able to do though it is in the sixth Five Year Plan. I am not criticising.

Dr. Sushila Nayar (Jhansi): I would like to interrupt the hon Minister at this point for a moment. Soviet Government not only supplies them with materials, but detailed instructions, the detailed plans and supervision and the people then go and build their houses. That is what we want here also.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The hon Member is anticipating me if I may say so. This is a stupendous problem and I will refer to it a little later after referring to some general aspects of this housing problem.

So far as the Central Government is concerned, realising that this housing problem was one to which we should give as much attention as possible, in 1952, we initiated the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme; in 1954, we initiated the Low Income Group Housing Scheme. This was followed up in 1956 by the Slum Clearance and Improvement Scheme and the Plantation Labour Scheme. All these 4 schemes are being worked out. It is true that we have not been able to make as much progress as we had intended to. It is also true that the allotments, poor as they were comparatively speaking, have not been fully utilised. Maybe the fault of the State Governments; maybe the fault of the Central Government or maybe the fault of the people who are to be the beneficiaries but who did not come forward to make use of all these facilities or schemes. I am not trying to apportion blame between this agency and that agency. There were some procedural difficulties also and some other bottlenecks which we are trying to remove one by one. In recent weeks we have passed an order which will make these easily available to the people so that they may utilise these grants for the purpose for which they are intended. I shall not go into details. But the fact remains that all these are urban schemes as I may call them.

We have come to feel that there is something more that we should do in regard to this matter. It was stated by some of my hon. friends that what is provided, Rs. 120 crores for these housing schemes is too poor. I admit it is not a big figure. With reference to a vital matter like this, Rs. 120 crores is nothing. In the First Five Year Plan only Rs. 38 crores or Rs. 40 crores was provided. In the Second Plan, it is Rs. 120 crores, for housing purposes; but we should be able to spend at least Rs. 1,000 crores and not Rs. 120 crores. (*Interruption*). We have been giving thought to this question and I would like to take this opportunity to read out to the hon. Members the housing policy of the Government.

The housing problem in the country is one of great magnitude and complexity which will require large scale finances and a concerted drive on the part of individuals, co-operatives, State Governments and the Centre over a number of years on a planned basis. In the urban areas one of the main problems is bridging the gap that exists between the economic rent and the social building costs in particular. The sector of population which is hit hardest by this phenomenon naturally consists of persons in the low income groups.

The three Housing Schemes of the Government of India now in operation for the urban areas are the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme, the Slum Clearance and Improvement Scheme and the Low Income Group Housing Scheme. The present pattern of financing these schemes is one of subsidy and loan in the case of the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme and the Slum Clearance Scheme and loan to State Governments for disbursement to co-operatives and individuals in the case of the Low Income Group Housing Scheme. The Subsidised Industrial Scheme was initiated in 1952 while the other two schemes were initiated later on as already indicated. These Schemes have hitherto benefited only a limited number of people.

It has been recognised that the scope of the current Housing Schemes has to be enlarged to serve a much larger number of people. It is also recognised that Government will have to subsidize, in some cases substantially, the housing meant for the industrial workers, the slum dwellers and sweepers whose income is too meagre to enable them to meet the rent of even houses built to the barest minimum specifications and standards. It is clear, however, that since our resources are not unlimited, a priority will have to be given in the matter of subsidy to those whose need is the greatest. There are others whose demand for housing is equally pressing but who could perhaps do without

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the element of subsidy from Government. To such persons it will be a great help if arrangements could be made to enable them to obtain land and loan finance to build their own houses or to buy them from governmental and semi-governmental agencies or to secure them on a rental basis.

In the light of the considerations mentioned above, it is proposed to set up housing corporations in the various States to provide loan finance with the Central Government and, in some cases, the State Governments providing the necessary subsidy also. It is intended that these institutions will channelise into housing, funds drawn from the private sector as well as banks, investment companies and financial institutions supplemented by funds from the Life Insurance Corporation and the Employees Provident Fund Account, etc. The Corporations will give long term loans on reasonable rates of interest. In this proposed scheme the highest priority would be given to provide money for the acquisition and development of land to be made available to builders on a no-profit-no-loss basis. It is also intended that State Governments will be asked to use Government land for the construction of houses meant for the low income groups as a part of their contribution towards subsidy.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the various building agencies including governmental bodies have a flexible approach in the matter of construction specifications so that indigenous building materials are used to the maximum extent possible and there is no undue demand on scarce materials.

Realising the growing importance of housing today and the need for clearing the slums, Government has set up in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply a separate Department of Housing under a Housing Commissioner, who will be supported by appropriate staff—technical, administrative

and financial, so that the implementation of the housing schemes proceeds expeditiously and in an efficient manner. It is to be hoped that such of the State Governments as have not set up separate organisations for housing, will do so without delay. The Government of India have separately announced a rural housing scheme. The essential features of the scheme have been mentioned in a statement that has been placed on the Table of the House today in reply to a question that was tabled on the subject.

The main object behind this policy is to create conditions under which more and more money could be spent on housing programmes. Our target is 1,000 crores of rupees instead of this Rs. 100 crores.

My hon. friend, Shri Dasappa, said that we were not going about this question with a certain amount of drive. He wanted a drive in order to have something worthwhile. While promising that drive, I seek his co-operation to see that all the State Governments, co-operative institutions and all the other agencies that are in this field,—individuals not excluded—take up this work in all earnestness and fall in line so that we can really launch a big large-scale drive in order to achieve something worthwhile in respect of housing.

I have noted several suggestions that have been made. Enough money is not being allotted to slum clearance schemes; subsidy should be given to rural housing schemes. Suggestions of this nature have been made. Government will look into all of them. So far as slum clearance is concerned, during the last few weeks we have been able to sanction several schemes from Madras and Andhra and some other places too. We have written to the Chief Ministers to send their schemes as expeditiously as possible. I have myself followed it up by personal letters and I am quite sure that they will not lose the opportunity of making use of the finances that are

forthcoming from the Central Government and do something really effective in the respective States. I am quite sure about it.

The hon. lady Member, Shrimati Tarakeshwari Sinha, asked me this morning about something that has been said by the Finance Minister about the rural housing scheme or the slum clearance scheme. The reference was, I believe, to slum clearance scheme and not so much to rural housing. It is true that he discussed this with the Chief Minister of West Bengal. I am aware of it and from the West Bengal Government, we have received schemes costing Rs. 7 crores. We are giving our attention to that question. So far as rural housing is concerned, I am not aware of what my hon. colleague has said and that is why I said that I did not know about it much.

What we are now trying to do with regard to rural housing is only a beginning. I would like to assure my hon friend, Shri Dasappa and others also, who complained that what we do is small I am fully conscious of the fact. It is only a modest beginning and we are taking up only a sort of a pilot programme. It is not a big programme at all when we consider that part as against the whole. As I said it will require about Rs. 3,000 or Rs 4,000 crores. We are making a modest beginning.

The Home Minister is giving subsidies to Harijans and Scheduled Castes and others for building houses in the rural areas. The Commerce and Industry Ministry is giving something. The other Ministries are giving something. This morning, I have said that this provision and all the other grants that are available from the other Ministries might be pooled together and I hope there will be something from which we can draw and achieve some results by the end of the Second Plan period.

The hon. Member referred to the First Plan and the first year of the Second Plan. True. No one would have been happier than the Government, if we had been able to do some-

thing worthwhile in the programmes in the First Plan. But, we are sorry that we were not able to make a beginning so far as this scheme is concerned in the first year of the Second Plan. But, it is a matter of some satisfaction for me that we are now in a position to make a beginning and it shall be our endeavour to galvanise our efforts in the proper direction in order to make this scheme go forward with the necessary drive, as my hon. friend put it. We shall do it to the extent that we can exert our moral influence and only to that extent we shall be able to make an effective contribution in regard to this matter.

It should not be forgotten that the basic responsibilities in these matters lie with the State Governments. I am saying this not with a view to evade responsibility or to do anything of the kind. I say that it is a matter of fact so that all of us can take note of these basic facts. The Central Government can only guide and give grants and give the technical know-how and lay down the plan and schemes. It is the State Government and the State Government alone that can do the rest. As one who had some experience of the State Government for five years, I know that unless the State Government comes forward to utilise all the facilities made available by the Central Government, the Central Government by itself cannot do anything worthwhile. It is so not only with regard to this scheme but with regard to various other schemes.

An hon. Member referred to the matching subsidy. When there is a final scheme, there will be no matching subsidy or anything of that kind and that difficulty will not continue to be in the way of satisfactory implementation of a programme of this kind.

Certain other points were referred to and I will seek the indulgence of the House to say a few words about those points. An hon. Member referred to want of accommodation to class IV servants. I have got the figures here. I do not know where from he

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got his figures. My figures go to show that the present demand—on date—for class IV quarters is 15,219. We have been able to provide accommodation up to 5897. The percentage is 40. I would also like to say a few words about A, B, C1, C2, D1, D2, and E types of accommodation. The percentages with regard to these are 58, 37, 53, 61, 31, 23 and 39.

This is the position in respect of each category of accommodation. It only goes to show that we have got a good deal of building programme with regard to all categories before we can say that we are in the happy position of being able to meet even 50 per cent or 60 per cent of the demand.

16 hrs.

The same goes for office accommodation. The demand for office accommodation today in Delhi is 40 lakh sq. ft. We fall short by 5 lakh to 6 lakh sq. ft. That too how? Our hutments which we have got in several places in Delhi between them account for 19 lakh sq. ft. We have got only 34 lakh sq. ft. and out of that our hutments account for 19 lakhs and about 5 lakh sq. ft. are rented accommodation in the houses of old princes. That shows what a lee-way we have to make up before we can be anywhere near of meeting the full demand in this country.

A question has been raised of shifting Government offices from Delhi. It should not be said that we are making no efforts in this direction. Some friends said, why not go to Jodhpur, Jaipur, Alwar etc. etc. We wrote to all the State Governments after the reorganisation of States to let us know what accommodation they could spare for use by the Central Government in their respective States. They have their own difficulties. They have got to assess their own requirements. Excepting the Government of Bombay, who have offered some amount of accommodation, no other State Government has been in a position to tell us definitely, here is some accommo-

dation, please take it and come. What are we to do?

It was pointed out that we should send our officers to find out whether there is accommodation. I have sent my officers. However much I may try by sending officers and all that, I cannot go to a State and occupy some accommodation there unless the State Government is willing to take us there.

That is the position so far as one side of the picture is concerned. The other side of the picture is, by and large, we are not willing to move out of Delhi.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: That is the crux of the problem.

An hon. Member: The cat is out of the bag.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The cat has always been out of the bag; it is not coming out of the bag for the first time now. There is nothing new coming out of the bag. We are giving our very serious attention to this and I can say, so far as my Ministry is concerned we have more or less decided to remove one department of this Ministry to a place outside Delhi. That may be a small department, we have not yet taken a final decision. That is the department of explosives—we have decided to remove explosives from Delhi. Anyway, I would like to assure the hon. Members that every endeavour will be made to remove as many offices as possible from Delhi. I would also like to add, if the Members will have any satisfaction from that, that we have taken a decision that no new offices can come to Delhi without permission at the highest level. That is a negative approach to the problem.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Put a stop to that.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I would like very briefly to refer to a few other matters to which reference was made by a number of speakers. It was my idea to give facts and figures with regard to the various housing schemes to show what allotments were made, what progress has been made and all

that. I think they are all in the statements which Government has placed on the Table and I should not weary the House by repeating those figures.

With regard to plantation labour scheme, out of six or seven States it is only one State that has come forward to make use of that scheme; other States have not been able to make use of that scheme because they have to frame rules and so on, and complete the preliminaries before making use of the scheme.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Which is that one State?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The question may be left unanswered. It is a State where there are large number of plantations (*Interruption*). It is Kerala.

Shri V. P. Nayar: We want other States to follow our lead.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I can give an instance where Kerala has not come forward to take advantage of a scheme to the same degree that other States have come forward to make use of that.

Then, Sir, I would like to say a word about our presses. Some critical statements have been made about our presses. We have been increasing our capacity during the last few years. We have doubled it, if not trebled it—I do not know what our exact capacity now is

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Even then we get our proceedings printed after one year.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am coming to that. We have built two new presses in recent years. We have now built a separate press at Faridabad for parliamentary printing purposes, in addition to the work that may be done in Delhi. It is true that there is a good lot of delay, but our activity has increased so tremendously during the last few years. The number of pages of proceedings printed are much more than what it was before. Our activity has increased and it goes on increas-

ing. It is a race between the matter to be printed and the number of presses that have to print it. We are trying to catch up one with the other and I hope we will become even one of these days.

I have already referred to the demand of the press workers. As regards the shifting of the Calcutta Press to Santragachi, that is in our programme, but I do not know, with the foreign exchange difficulty, how soon we will be able to do it. But, that is a matter which is very much borne in mind by the Government.

About Ashoka Hotel, I was more more than gratified that it got a clean bill. No criticism was made. The one hon. Member who spoke of it was all praise for that. When the full facts about Ashoka Hotel will be placed before this House, I have not the least doubt in my mind that even those who have got some unfavourable notions about this hotel will revise their opinion. I would like to read one or two objective statements about this Ashoka Hotel by people who had been here from outside India. This is, Sir, *Travelling on the Fringe*, a publication by a very well known travel agency. It is by one Mr. Hemphill, President of the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA), one of the most influential travel agents in the whole world. They have got considerable influence. After coming to Delhi and seeing Ashoka Hotel this is what he says:

“But today here in Delhi, by contrast with the old India..... I find at the new, government, Ashoka Hotel ...”

Some people are very unhappy about the name. I do not know why they should be unhappy.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Who is unhappy?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There was some criticism even today. The other day, I think it was Shri Mukerjee who asked, why have the name Ashoka

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Hotel, why not have Jehangir Hotel or something like that. That is by the way Mr Hemphill goes on to say:

" Ashoka Hotel, the finest and most modern accommodations east of Europe From the fifth-floor, four-room suite which the management has assigned to me I can almost feel that I am a...."

The words that he used are unhappy.

" modern Moghul.... "

(Interruptions)
Then it continues:

" as I look over the new embassy district towards the magnificent buildings, domes and arches of the capital and realize that here is a new India rising Phoenix-like from the dust and ashes of the past."

Then, here is another statement which I would like to share with the House. This is from a Newsletter, a published document I will read only one or two sentences and not all the details

"It may be mentioned here that the Taj Mahal Hotel was a losing proposition for a number of years"

And, that is the case with many of the hotels of this size anywhere in the world

"Perhaps after the first World War it began to pave its way. Today it is very difficult to get accommodation in it The high standard initiated by the founder is being maintained"

Then it goes on to say :

"Similarly, the starting of Ashoka Hotel in Delhi is a far-sighted proposition Numberless delegations from outside India visit the capital of India. Any attempt to lower the standard with a view to economise the expenditure is a short-sighted

measure. A German delegation of eminent businessmen who stayed in the Ashoka Hotel during their recent visit to Delhi told their friends in Bombay that the standard of the Ashoka Hotel was higher than in any Hotel in Germany and it should be ranked as one of the best hotels in the World."

It further says—I do not know if I could make a reference to it—"It is hoped that the Members of Parliament"—that is what the writer of this letter says—"will stand by the Prime Minister and see that the high standard is maintained in the Ashoka Hotel to establish a reputation of India's capital. In the course of time" .. it may be three years, four years or five years... "Ashoka Hotel will be a sure money-spinner". So much for the Ashoka Hotel.

Now, I would like to conclude my speech I may say once again how grateful I am for the helpful suggestions that have been made by the Members who have participated in this debate I think I was profited by them and such of the points that I have not been able to touch in the course of my speech will be taken note of and it shall be my endeavour to attend to them. On our part we shall do everything that is possible in order to make, as I said, in the course of my speech, this department really a public welfare department.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Hemraj has sent an intimation that he intends to move cut motions 1367, 1368 and 1369, but that was received at 3-30 P.M It is time-barred and it cannot be permitted now. Now, I shall put all the cut motions, to the vote of the House.

All the cut motions were put and *negatived*.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put the Demands to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in

the fourth column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of the following heads of demands entered in the second column thereof :—

Demands Nos. 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 132, 133 and 134".

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below—Ed.]

DEMAND No. 92—MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,67,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of Ministry of Works, Housing & Supply".

DEMAND No. 93—SUPPLIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,52,33,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Supplies'".

DEMAND No. 94—OTHER CIVIL WORKS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,05,47,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Other Civil Works'".

DEMAND No. 95—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,02,37,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum

necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'".

DEMAND No. 96—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 52,02,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply".

DEMAND No. 132—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,27,69,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'".

DEMAND No. 133—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BUILDINGS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,67,59,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Buildings'".

DEMAND No. 134—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,25,86,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum

necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'".

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up discussion of the Demands for Grants Nos. 51 to 63 and 120 relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs. As the House is aware, eight hours have been allotted for the Demands of this Ministry.

There are a number of cut motions to these Demands. Hon. Members may hand over at the Table within 15 minutes, the numbers of the selected cut motions which they propose to move. I shall ask the Members to move them, if the Members in whose names those cut motions stand are present in the House and the motions are otherwise in order.

The time-limit for speeches will, as usual, be 15 minutes for the Members including movers of cut motions, and 20 to 30 minutes if necessary, for Leaders of Groups.

I have also received intimation that there are some hon. Members who are particular that they should be allowed time today because they are leaving this evening. Therefore, I will try to accommodate them.

DEMAND No. 51—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,81,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Ministry of Home Affairs'".

DEMAND No. 52—CABINET

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,33,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Cabinet'".

DEMAND No. 53—ZONAL COUNCILS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,63,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Zonal Councils'".

DEMAND No. 54—POLICE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,00,99,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Police'".

DEMAND No. 55—CENSUS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,95,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1958, in respect of 'Census'".

DEMAND No. 56—PRIVY PURSES AND ALLOWANCES OF INDIAN RULERS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,56,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum