

Shri Y. B. Chavan: The latter part of the question, I will answer first. Certainly all care is taken to give them proper medical attention and other attention so that they feel better. Detailed information is yet to be received from the officers concerned. But, certainly the intention of taking them round the different parts and in the different cities, possibly must be to parade them.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether it is in the knowledge of the Government and whether they could tell us the total number of Army officers and jawans who are still in China's custody and what steps have been taken for their repatriation?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I can give the exact figures. In all 3211 Indian prisoners are in Chinese hands, out of which about 1364 have been handed over.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the hon. Minister has himself admitted that these P.O.Ws were paraded about in the cities of China, may I know whether this particular fact has been brought by our Government to the notice of China, because this is in violation of the international laws and all that and, if so, what is the reaction of China to this particular effort of the Chinese? At the same time, .

Mr. Speaker: That is all; that should be enough. Order, order.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Certainly it was brought to the notice of the Chinese Government that it is against normal conventions to take prisoners like this.

Shri Tyagi: May I know if the Government could find out as to what is the basis of their policy—Chinese policy—in releasing these prisoners in small instalments and not releasing them all at once? Could the Government find out?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Possibly it is a question of convenience of handing over.

Collapse of C.P.W.D. Godown in New Delhi

{ **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
 { **Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:**
 { **Dr. Saradish Roy:**
SNQ. 17. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
 { **Shri Shashi Ramjan:**
 { **Shri Yashpal Singh:**

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

(a) whether a C.P.W.D. godown under repairs in Netaji Nagar, New Delhi collapsed on Friday the 3rd May, 1963, killing two persons and injuring five others, four of them seriously;

(b) if so, what was the cause of the accident; and

(c) what precautions had been taken to avoid such eventuality during the course of repairs of the godown?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Yes. A contract was given on 21st December 1962 for a sum of Rs. 4,76,328/- to a contractor for the replacement of the wooden trusses of the C.P.W.D. godown in Netaji Nagar by steel trusses. I regret to say that one workman and a boy related to one of the workmen were killed and 5 others injured. 3 of the 5 injured workmen have already been discharged from hospital and the remaining 2 are expected to be discharged shortly. None of them was injured seriously.

(b) The accident was most unfortunate. It was caused by a slip of one of the steel ropes of the derrick being used for hoisting steel trusses. 17 steel trusses had already been safely hoisted and the 18th was being hoisted and placed in position when the work was stopped because of rain and storm. As the workmen were hurrying away to take shelter from the storm, the slip occurred with the result that the derrick and the steel truss being hoisted struck against the neighbouring truss leading to the falling down of a number of trusses in succession.

*As subsequently corrected by the

(c) An enquiry has been ordered into the accident. The enquiry report will show not only the precise cause of the accident but also what action is possible to prevent recurrence in future. According to the contractor, all the workers were insured and are entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know when the defect in the building was first detected and how long after it, repairs were taken up?

Shri P. S. Naskar: It has nothing to do when it was detected. The contractor was replacing the trusses. I have explained in detail in my original answer the reason for the occurrence.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether any compensation is going to be paid to the deceased and the injured or whether the doctrine of *voluntis Nonfit injuria* would prevent such payment?

Shri P. S. Naskar: All that I answered in my original answer.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: One of the victims who died was just a small child, who was not a worker. May I know whether the contractor has agreed to pay some compensation in that case also?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): I have spoken to the contractor, and I have also been to the scene of accident. It is not very clear whether in respect of the boy who was not a worker and who was not insured, some compensation would be paid to the boy's parents or not. But, as I could see from the attitude of the contractor, he would be helpful, but I cannot say it for a guarantee.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन लोगों को एक्सपेंसियापेमेंट कितना हुआ है ?

श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना : जो एकट बना है, उस के नीचे उनको कम्पेंसेशन मिलेगा ।

तमाम के तमाम ये जो काम करने वाले थे, उनका बीमा हुआ हुआ था । उनको बाकायदा कम्पेंसेशन मिलेगा ।

Demolition of Constitution House

SNQ. 18. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to demolish Constitution House;

(b) if so, when;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) what arrangements are being made for the accommodation of residents of Constitution House?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Yes, a project at a cost of Rs. 75 lakhs has been sanctioned. It will provide 440 suites.

(b) In about 6 months' time.

(c) The Constitution House was constructed more than 20 years ago to provide temporary accommodation during the last war. The structures were given a life expectancy of about 5 years but have been continued so far at heavy maintenance cost. Land in Delhi is now getting very scarce and land values have gone up tremendously. There is at the same time a great shortage of accommodation which can only be met quickly and most economically by multi-storeyed construction after demolition of the old temporary structures.

(d) Alternative accommodation will be provided to all eligible residents of the Constitution House.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is it not a fact that soon after the Proclamation of Emergency last October, a decision was taken in the Ministry on the advice of competent engineers that the Constitution House Government Hostel should not be demolished, because the engineers certified that it was good enough for another four or five years with proper maintenance and regular repairs, and if so, why has the deci-