

(b) No work has been undertaken as the staff required has not been agreed to by the Planning Commission so far.

Thermal Power Generation

*648. { **Shri Mohammad Elias:**
Shrimati Vimla Devi:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government are contemplating to step in the field of thermal power generation;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a decision; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to create a separate pool of technical personnel with utility experience for management of State electricity supply undertakings throughout India?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) and (b). Government are actively considering the question of setting up regional agencies for development of power. So far, no decision has been taken about the scope of functions and duties to be entrusted to these organisations. A suggestion has also been made that the Central Government should undertake construction and operation of major power stations, including thermal schemes. This will have to be considered in the light of the decision taken about the functions of regional agencies.

(c) No, Sir.

Hostel on Link Road

*649. { **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:

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

(a) whether a new hostel has been recently built on Link Road;

(b) if so, for whom it is intended and its capacity and dimension of each room;

(c) the rent proposed to be charged per room; and

(d) when the hostel will start working?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Yes.

(b) The hostel which has 280 suites has been constructed to provide accommodation for Central Government employees.

The dimensions of the living rooms are from 14'-16" by 8'-3" on the ground floor to 14'-10½" by 9'-0" on the top floor. Attached bath rooms are roughly 9' by 7' on all floors.

(c) The rent to be charged from Government employees will be Rs. 105.27 nP per month inclusive of furniture, services and free water supply.

(d) The hostel is likely to start functioning in about a month's time.

Tax Evasion by Thackersey Concerns

*650. { **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri P. C. Barooah:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 709 on the 4th April, 1963 and state:

(a) whether the investigation into the third allegation regarding tax evasion against the two firms in which the members of Thackersey family were partners, has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) No, Sir. The investigations are still in progress.

(b) Does not arise.