

LOK SABHA

Friday, September 13, 1963/Bhadra
22, 1885 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Building for State Trading
Corporation

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*652. { Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:

Will the Minister of International
Trade be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that
Rs. 5500 is being paid per month by
the State Trading Corporation for
housing the offices in Express Build-
ing at Mathura Road, Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that
a sum of more than one crore of
rupees is lying with Corporation for
the construction of office building;
and

(c) if so, the steps being taken for
the construction of building ?

**The Minister of International Trade
(Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) The State
Trading Corporation is paying at pre-
sent Rs. 73,900 per month as rent for
the accommodation under its occu-
pation in the Express Building.

(b) and (c). A plot measuring 1.76
acres on Janpath has been proposed
for allotment by the Ministry of
Works, Housing and Rehabilitation for
the construction of Office building for
the State Trading Corporation. The
vacant possession of this land is ex-
pected to be made available early

next year. In the mean time, the
plans and estimates for the construc-
tion of the proposed building are
being processed by the Corporation.
The construction will be financed out
of the building reserve which has
been specifically created over a per-
iod of years and which now is over
a crores of rupees.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कार-
पोरेशन की इमारत के लिए दिल्ली से बाहर
कहाँ जमीन ली जा रही है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : जनपथ के पास इस
इमारत का निर्माण होना है। दो एकड़ जमीन
मिल रही है। जहाँ अभी एम० पी० साबान
के पुराने हाउसेज हैं वहाँ पर यह बननी है।
नये हाउसेज उनके लिए बनने वाले हैं जिन-
में कि उनको पुराने हाउसेज से शिफ्ट कर
के ले जाया जायेगा। जब वह खाली हो जायेंगे
तो वह जगह हम को दे देंगे और उस जमीन
पर इसकी इमारत का निर्माण तब शुरू किया
जायगा।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : यह स्टेट ट्रेडिंग
कारपोरेशन और किन किन कामों में हिस्सा
लेने जा रही है और कौन कौन से व्यापार हैं
जिनमें कि वह हिस्सा लेने जा रही है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह सवाल इस से नहीं
उठता है। यह तो उसके किराये और इमारत
की बाबत है।

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know
if it is contemplated to build modern
store houses in order to store import
and export goods at places where the
STC operates?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Presently this
is to avoid the expenditure on the

rental for the Express Building. On the other question, of course, we have definite plans.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: When the STC is paying a huge sum as rent every month and when the money is available for construction, why should the vacant possession of the land be given only next year and why not earlier, so that construction may be started and the rent may be saved?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I am thankful to the hon. Member for raising this. But there are about 4 or 5 houses of Members of Parliament in this particular plot of land and unless alternative arrangements are made for their being shifted and the plot is handed over to us as vacant possession, we cannot start the construction.

Shri Sivamurthy Swamy: Apart from the Express Building, are there any branch offices in which this has been accommodated?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The Delhi office is in the Express Building. There are offices in Bombay and Calcutta also.

Contract with Individual Firms

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*653. { Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri P. K. Deo:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to arm themselves with legal powers to reopen in future any contract with any individual or firm to which Union Government may be a party; and

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

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) and (b). The Government are considering the question of legislation on the subject.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: At present as the contract binds us for any term

that is fixed in the beginning, do Government propose to have some enabling clause in it, so that when something goes very vitally wrong, Government will be able to nullify the contract and enter into a new contract?

Shri A. K. Sen: This will involve legislation and the legislation will be a little complicated, because it will have the effect of varying the terms. The matter is under consideration.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Are we to understand that in principle it had been decided by the Government and only the details and the enabling enactment are to come before the House?

Shri A. K. Sen: The principle of having some machinery for reviewing unconscionable contracts or contracts which may appear unconscionable is accepted. But the mechanism of giving effect to it is a matter which requires fairly good examination, because it involves constitutional and legal aspects.

Shri Tyagi: What type of powers are sought to be taken for changing the contracts? Would the rates or things like that be changed or some periods, etc. would also be changed? What type of changes have the Government in mind?

Shri A. K. Sen: The recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee was with regard to the rates. With regard to the period, it is another thing. I do not think there is a case for review, because the authorities concerned having stipulated a particular date, that cannot be changed by agreement of both parties.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या विदेश फर्मों के ऊपर भी यह लागू होगा ।

श्री अ० कु० सन : सभी फर्मों पर यह लागू होगा ।

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether it is not the essence of a contract that it is an agreement on fixed terms and if so, whether the Govern-