

Mr. Speaker: It will be considered
Next question.

Shifting of Offices from Delhi

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*146. { **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Keshava:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 663 on the 30th November, 1956 and state the present position of the proposal for shifting some Central Government Offices from Delhi?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy) Except for the Bombay Government no other State Government concerned has so far intimated whether any surplus accommodation in the former State capitals is available for use by the Central Government. In the case of the Bombay Government, some accommodation in Nagpur has been offered to the Central Government. The Fire Service College, formerly at Rampur, and the Emergency Relief Training School, a new organisation, have been established in a part of this accommodation. The Police Training School at Mount Abu is likely to move to Nagpur. So far no office has moved from Delhi to any former State capital. The general question of move of offices out of Delhi is still under consideration.

Shri H. C. Mathur: Will the hon Minister recollect that more than two years back, it was stated that a list of 17 non-secretariat departments had been drawn up for being moved out of Delhi. May I know what is the progress made during these two years?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I submit this question does not relate to the general question of the move of Central offices from Delhi. The question arises out of Starred Question No 663 answered on the 30th November, 1956. That question related only to the transfer of Central offices from Delhi to certain places which were capitals before the

re-organisation. I have confined my answer to that. As regards the general question, if the hon Member gives separate notice, I shall answer.

Shri H. C. Mathur: My question was absolutely general. In your Secretariat it has been put in these words: I never referred to the question which was asked on the floor of the House in November. I never referred to it. Still, the general question is absolutely inter-related. It is only those departments of which a list was drawn to be moved out that could move. If I understood it, a Cabinet Sub-Committee of three Ministers was appointed for this very purpose. May I know what progress has been made?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry to say that it has not been possible to move any of the offices out of Delhi till now. The matter is engaging the attention of Government. Another Sub-Committee of the Cabinet is going through the question.

Shri T. N. Singh: On a point of procedure, in what manner, to what extent, within what limitations can a question tabled by a Member be modified at the discretion of the Ministry or at whose discretion, I do not know. A number of names are lumped together for a question that is put down. Why is it being done, we would like to know. From what Shri H. C. Mathur says, it appears that the question has been modified and it has become something different from what the intention of the questioner was.

Mr. Speaker: What happens is this. The Ministers are not responsible, but the office of the Parliament Secretariat is responsible for this. When a number of questions on the same subject are tabled, we do not put them all on the Order Paper lest one single question should occupy the whole day and elbow out the other questions. Therefore, the first question is admitted, and whatever important items there are in the other question are also added, and the names of all hon Mem-

bers who tabled the same question are set down on the Order Paper as persons who are entitled to put the question in the absence of the first person to whom priority is given. In this particular case, the question might have been split into two. Normally the language is taken of the question put down by the first person, the person whose question is admitted first. Thereafter the others are added. I shall look into this and try to see that hereafter all important items are put down together, so that no hon. Member may take any exception to his question having been modified.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I suggest that in such cases since we have invariably to give a notice of ten days to a fortnight before the question is actually put on the agenda paper, the Member whose question is being modified should at least be sent a copy of the modified form of the question so that if he has any suggestion to make regarding the phraseology of the wording of the question, he may submit it.

Mr. Speaker: I shall see.

Shri H. C. Mathur: The hon. Home Minister stated on the floor of the House only yesterday that no decision whatsoever has been taken regarding the shifting of the police training school from Mt. Abu and that he is sending out his officers from place to place to ascertain where the centre should be located, while the hon. Minister says that it is likely to be located in Nagpur. May I know how the position stands?

Mr. Speaker: There is no contradiction. He said it is only likely.

Shri H. C. Mathur: It has prejudiced the case of other places which are being considered by the Home Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Very good.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It does not. I have not said a decision has been taken to transfer the police training school to Nagpur. As you, Sir, pointed out, it is likely to happen, but the whole matter is under consideration.

Shri Ranga: May I know whether the policy of the Government decided upon some six years ago to shift as many offices as possible away from Delhi still continues to be there even though it has not been implemented though all these six or seven years?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The fact is that in 1950 we did transfer five offices from Delhi to other places, viz., the Surveyor-General of India office, Development Branch of D. G., P. & T., Director of Seamen's Welfare Scheme etc. Since then, we have drawn up certain lists of offices which could be transferred from Delhi to other places, but we have encountered several difficulties and we have got to deal with the matter very carefully. What I can say is that the matter is continuing to engage the attention of Government and we will make every endeavour to shift as many offices as could be conveniently shifted to other places.

International Atomic Energy Agency

*141. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of India have ratified the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(b) whether requisite number of other countries have ratified it so that the first General Conference be held, and

(c) the time when the General Conference is likely to be held?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes

(b) Not yet

(c) The General Conference is likely to be held in October this year.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether it is a fact that some of the important countries like the U.S.A., and the U.S.S.R., have not so far ratified this statute?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: It is believed that they will do so soon. They have not ratified so far.