

Shri Dasaratha Deb: May I know whether any demarcation line has been drawn or a strict division has been made as to which area should be distributed among the tribal people and which among the non-tribal people?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I may inform the hon Member that we are only having a road made. After the road has been made and the area reclaimed, the question will arise which area should be given to A and which to B.

**Wagon Assembly Factory,
Visakhapatnam**

*382. { **Shri R. J. Rao:**
Shri M. N. Singh:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract labour in the Visakhapatnam Wagon Assembly Factory, have gone on strike following the retrenchment of some of the workers;

(b) whether any efforts have been made towards conciliation, and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The Conciliation Officer (Central) Secunderabad had a number of meetings with the representatives of both parties, but no settlement could be arrived at. The Chief Labour Commissioner is making further attempts at conciliation and has invited the parties to meet him today.

N.E.F.A.

*383. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allow non-officials to visit the North East Frontier Agency areas and study affairs there, and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J.

N. Hazarika): (a) and (b). Persons who do not habitually reside in the NEFA can visit the territory only under special permits. It has been considered necessary to impose this restriction because there is general lack of accommodation, transport, etc., in this area and without official assistance it is not easy to secure these. It is also necessary to take precautions against the exploitation of tribals by outsiders and interference with their normal life.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: May I know whether the 'iron curtain' policy of the Government will help towards better understanding between the tribal people and the neighbouring people, and whether it will also serve the interest of unity and solidarity of the country?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: There is no 'iron curtain' policy as such.

Sri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that a comprehensive Indian mind has yet to grow amongst the tribal population inhabiting the NEFA area because of the policy of isolationism pursued by the British rulers, may I know if Government are going to liquidate this artificial barrier by allowing closer contact between the people of the plains and the people of these hilly regions?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Government are doing everything to establish closer contacts between the people of the hills and the people of the plains. These are the obvious reasons given earlier for which some restrictions have been imposed.

Some Hon. Members rise—

Mr. Speaker: These are questions of security. To avoid exploitation of these people, some kind of permits are granted. What is the use of asking further questions about this?

Shri V. Eaju: Does it mean that when a Minister refers to security, we cannot ask supplementaries?

Mr. Speaker: That is all right. But the same questions are asked again..

Shri V. Raju: The same question does not arise.

Mr. Speaker: If a specific question is asked and a specific answer is given, that is all right. On the other hand, hon. Members want to convince by their reasons that the policy should be changed.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I only wanted to ask as to how many non-officials have been allowed.

Shri Hem Barua: I wanted to ask about the arrest of the spiritual head.

Mr. Speaker: So far as the hon. lady Member is concerned, she did not ask that question.

Next question.

Ashoka Hotel

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 { **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**
 Shri Assar:
 Shri Morarka:
 *384. { **Shri Kushwaqt Rai:**
 Shri Jadhav:
 Shri Tantia:

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

(a) the capital expenditure incurred so far for Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi; and-

(b) how much money has been spent so far, and estimated as recurring annual expenditure?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The total expenditure incurred up to 30th June 1957 amounts to Rs. 2:38 crores.

(b) The expenditure on running the Hotel for the year ending September 1957 is estimated at about Rs. 23 lakhs, against which a sum of about Rs. 17 lakhs has been spent up to the end of June 1957. In addition a provision of about Rs. 22 lakhs will have to be made for depreciation, interest on

loan, house tax and payments due on the lease-hold land.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Can the Government give us some figures about the total expenditure incurred on the purchase of furniture, fittings, upholstery and similar things and the proportion of foreign purchase in regard to them?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The proportion of foreign purchase is indeed very meagre. I have got all the figures with me but it will be a pretty long statement; but, if it is needed I can lay it on the Table.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if it is a fact that Swedish cooks have been employed for service in this Hotel while we have quite good cooks serving in all other hotels; and, if so, are they being allowed to send out their salaries etc. in the form of foreign exchange?

Shri Anil K Chanda: I am afraid I have not got the detailed information about all the servants in the Hotel; but there are some foreign people on contract basis for special purposes. As soon as our own people are trained up, they will be released.

An Hon. Member: That is the limit, Sir.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the sumptuous character of this Hotel, may I know if Government will consider the advisability of changing the name of the Hotel to Jehangir Hotel or so because Ashoka was a very abstemious person?

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know what has happened to the amount that was invested by the Jam Saheb and others; have they been returned?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There is no question of returning any money. It is a public company and about Rs. 15 lakhs worth of shares are held by private persons and Rs. 85 lakhs by Government.

Shri Kamal Singh: May I know if it is contemplated to let out this Hotel on contract basis?