

under consideration but it is not possible to make a statement on the subject at this stage.

12 hrs.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Is it not a fact that India runs a daily service between the East and the West? We are also thinking of acquiring Boeings for doing this. If Indians are restricted, Air India International's earnings will go down. What does the Government think of doing about that?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: All those considerations are before the Government in reviewing the foreign exchange position.

Short Notice Question

Ashoka Hotel

S.N.Q.
No. 13. { **Shri B. Das Gupta:**
Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:
Shri Ghosal:
Shri B. C. Prodhan:
Shri Khadilkar:
Shri Mahanty:
Shri Goray:
Shri Prabhat Kar:
Shri Braj Raj Singh:
Shri Subiman Ghose:
Shri Supakar:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that persons wearing "Dhoti" and "Kurta" are not allowed in the Buffet Hall for dinner in the Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) No, Sir. The notice displayed in front of the Dining Halls reads as follows:—

"Residents and Guests are requested not to enter the Dining Room in informal Costume such as beach wear. Ladies are requested to wear dresses and gentlemen at least long trousers and tie with their shirt or a modest coloured bush-shirt, preferably with long sleeves.

In the evening, formal or semi-formal dress should be worn. Gentlemen are requested to wear jackets at Dinner."

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Has it come to the notice of the hon. Minister that one Bengalee gentleman on the 30th of last month was refused entry to the Buffet Hall simply for the reason he was wearing *dhoti* and *punjabi* which is the formal Bengalee dress?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, Sir. Our attention has been drawn to this case. The gentleman in question, Shri Radeshyam Goenka, wrote a letter to the hon. Minister Shri K. C. Reddy on this matter. With your permission I may read the reply which will explain the whole case. May I have your permission?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. Is it a long one?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the reply?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: In the letter you get the reply.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Shri Goenka's letter also should be read.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There is no objection to reading the reply. It reads:

"Will you please refer to your letter dated 3rd September which reached me on the 8th about the incident in the Ashoka Hotel on 30th August, 1958.

I have had enquiries made and find that there has probably been some misunderstanding about the question of the dress to be worn in the banquet hall on Saturdays when the hotel usually holds, dinner dance. There is no ban on the wearing of a dhoti and punjabi in the dining hall of the Ashoka Hotel. What the staff on duty generally does, however, is to request patrons on the dinner

dance occasions to wear an evening dress or a lounge suit or its Indian equivalent in case they desire to take the floor and dance. It is possible, therefore, that what the person in attendance tried to convey to you on the evening of the 30th August was the desirability of wearing a formal or semi-formal attire in case you wished to dance in the banquet hall.

I am sorry that this misunderstanding should have caused you such inconvenience, and I am asking the hotel authorities to see that such misunderstandings do not arise in future."

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker. Whatever might be the general language of the notice that was put up there originally, which the hon. Minister read, subsequently the letter of Shri Reddy indicates that only those who want to take part in the dance along with others need wear this dress. Let them conform. We are not going into this.

I admitted this question for this reason that we are complaining of our people not being admitted in hotels in foreign countries, London, etc.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: And here is a foreign country in Delhi.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should not think in terms of foreign. All of us are natives of the soil. Therefore I allowed this question. In view of this answer, is it necessary to pursue this matter?

Several Hon. Members rose—

Shri Anil K. Chanda: May I explain the background of that notice regarding entry into the dining hall?

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the Government is willing to cancel that notice?

Mr. Speaker: Let us hear the hon. Minister.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am prepared to face any number of questions, but one Member at a time.

With regard to this notice, if you will carefully go through it, you will see that it refers, by implication, to only such people as wear the Western type of dress. There have been complaints made by customers—Indian customers—that people wearing the Western type of dress have been allowed to come into the dinner hall on dance nights in bush shirts. Our Indian customers said that in a foreign hotel of this nature, they would never be allowed to come into the dining hall in such informal wear. Therefore, this notice has reference only to such people as wear the Western type of dress. For instance, there is no mention.....

Mr. Speaker: That is all right.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: I demand a division on this.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: I demand a division on this un-Indian thing in India.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): The Government will look into the matter. (*Interruptions*) I am just stating that the Government will look into the matter. It deserves attention, and if there is any ambiguity, it will be cleared. Indian dress would be allowed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Living Conditions of Students

*1264. **Shri Subodh Hansda:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pilot survey of living conditions of students has been completed; and

(b) if so, whether the survey report has been submitted to Government?