

authority of the State Governments, this cannot be taken over by the Central Government. Was it not a fact that when the banking industry was taken over by the Central Government, to State Governments were not consulted?

Shri L. N. Mishra: Here we have to consult because under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, industrial relations in the steel industry come under the sphere of the State Governments. If we are to take it over, for that the concurrence of the State Governments is essential.

Shri Prabhat Kar: When the banking industry was taken over, the Industrial Disputes Act was there in 1949 and it was under the State Government. But it was taken over by the Central Government, without consulting the State Governments. Why has the same procedure not been adopted in this case also?

Shri L. N. Mishra: That might be a different case. But here we have to take the concurrence from the State Governments. We cannot take it away illegally or by force. We have to take the consent of the State Governments.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the consent of the West Bengal Government and the Bihar Government has been obtained and whether any of these Governments have expressed any opinion in favour of this proposal?

Shri L. N. Mishra: Not so far; we have not received any communication from the State Governments. We have received information from one or two State Governments, but it is not encouraging.

National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation

*1846. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the offices of the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation are located in Krishi Bhavan;

(b) whether it is a fact that it is a private commercial organisation not recognised by Government;

(c) what rent, if any, is being charged from it and since how long it has been functioning there; and

(d) if no rent is being charged, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is an organisation registered under the Co-operative Societies Act.

(c) and (d). No rent is being charged at present. The question of recovery of rent is, however, being looked into. It has been occupying the accommodation since February 1959.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation had informed the State Governments that it is not a recognised body?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have not got this information.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: May I know if any other such co-operative organisation has been allotted office premises in Krishi Bhavan?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I may inform the House that it was not allotted by the Directorate of Estates. This co-operative organisation evidently was in difficulty with regard to their accommodation and a part of the room meant for the personal staff of the Minister of Agriculture has been permitted to be used by it for this purpose. No rent, I understand, is being charged.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: May I know whether this society have applied for any room there or it was given *suo motu* by the Minister or anybody?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have not got much information, because it was not done by us.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: What is the estimated rent of this portion which has been occupied by this organisation?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: So far as my information goes, no rent is being charged.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: That is not the question. What is the estimated rent of the space which has been occupied by this organisation?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Actually we first came to know of it after this question had been tabled. We have gathered these things from the Ministry of Agriculture. As far as our information goes, only a small portion of that room with one or two tables is being used by the society. But if it is your desire, I can make the calculation and give the information.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister could have easily said "I do not know". That is easy. After all, it does not belong to his department. He was not responsible for having let it out; it is part of the room meant for personal staff of the Agriculture Minister. When the question is put as to what is the estimated rent, he could easily have said, "I do not know".

Kidnapping of Indian Fishermen by Pakistanis

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*1847. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
Shri M. B. Thakore:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Assar:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six Indian fishermen were kidnapped by Pakistani armed policemen from the Indian side of the river Padma in Jalangi P. S. in Murshidabad District on the 16th April, 1961; and

(b) if so, the details of the incident?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi N. Menon): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Six Indian fishermen, while fishing on the Indian side of river Padam opposite Khasmahal Border Out-Post under Jalangi Police Station, District Murshidabad, were kidnapped by Pakistani Policemen and taken to Pakistan along with their boat and fishing tackle worth rupees eight hundred. A protest has been lodged with the Government of East Pakistan demanding the immediate release of the fishermen and their equipment.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether they have been released or they are still in Pakistan?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I am sorry, I cannot give a positive answer just at present. Obviously, they were not released when this answer was drafted; but since this answer was drafted a week or ten days ago, possibly some changes might have taken place. As a matter of fact, I have just tried to enquire about it, but the reply has not yet come, the question came too soon.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that a Pakistani survey team with survey instruments were in collusion with the police in kidnapping these Indian fishermen; if so, whether this fact has come to the notice of the Government or not?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot answer that question about collusion.

Mr. Speaker: In collusion with our police?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; with the survey team.

Mr. Speaker: Where is the collusion then?