

Shri M. M. Das: We have formulated a scheme for the expansion of some of the existing engineering institutions. The selection depends upon the scope for such expansion and I know the case my hon. friend refers to, but in that case, I think there is no scope at present for further expansion.

Shri Dasappa: I was not referring to any case for the future. I was only referring to the fact that during this year they are attempting to work at least by shifts and see that some more students are admitted into these institutions.

Shri M. M. Das: All such requests from the State Governments or other institutions or authority have been taken into consideration, and decisions have been arrived at after giving the fullest consideration to the scope that is available for such expansion.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: If it is not possible to expand these institutions immediately, what is the difficulty in having a shift system so that the existing institutions may be utilised to the utmost?

Shri M. M. Das: We have already taken schemes and the schemes are under contemplation for the expansion of existing engineering institutions and in comparison with last year, the total number of admissions this year has gone up.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: I was asking what is the objection to the shift system.

Shri Dasappa: They have to consider this matter. The hon. Minister says as though the matter is now closed.

Shri M. M. Das: The Planning Commission and the Government of India set up a two member committee with Shri J. C. Ghosh and Shri L. S. Chandrakant, the Deputy Educational Adviser (Technical) to the Government of India, to investigate the

details of this matter, and this committee has given its recommendation suggesting the names of the institutions which will be expanded during the second Plan period. In arriving at this conclusion about the selection of these institutions, they have taken into consideration the existing buildings, the buildings which are to be constructed and the existing teaching staff, equipment and all other relevant matters.

Mr. Speaker: The simple question is whether this committee has considered the shift system, whether it is possible to have a shift system. That is the only point that has been asked.

Shri M. M. Das: I am not sure whether the shift system has been advised, but we are contemplating to use the same laboratory and the same equipment, and so, the shift system has to be adopted to some extent.

Shri Dasappa: In view of the integration of the various parts in one or other State, is it not a fact that special problems have arisen, and because of that, those who have no engineering or medical or any other technical colleges within their own area are finding difficulty now that they are torn away from their former State.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is giving arguments for extending the facilities or for having a shift system. The hon. Minister has said that the committee has recommended certain things.

Shri Dasappa: He referred to a committee which was not concerned with the integration of States.

Mr. Speaker: I would not allow arguments of this kind under this question.

Staff Quarters of Central Excise Department

*715. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 724 on the 13th August, 1955 regarding the staff quarters of the

Central Excise Department and state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the matter of construction; and

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

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) Government were considering construction of staff quarters at Sambalpur and Cuttack. No site could be selected at the former place, while a site was selected at Cuttack last year but had to be given up as the Town Planner had objected to its use for residential quarters. An alternative site could not be selected so far.

(b) Further action on the project has been deferred for the present due to the budgetary position.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether this scheme will be extended to other districts of the Orissa State?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: This scheme itself has been for the present kept in abeyance. The question of further extension does not arise.

Shri Sanganna: May I know which are the categories of staff for whom these quarters are constructed?

Mr. Speaker: The whole question is kept in abeyance. Is it the categories of staff that the hon. Member wants?

Shri Sanganna: Yes, Sir. Categories.

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): It is for the non-gazetted government staff.

Shri Mahanty: I understand from the reply given by the hon. Minister that the process of building staff quarters at Cuttack was pending because the Town Planner did not recommend the site. Is it not a fact that the whole establishment of the Town Planner along with the Town Planner has been abolished in the meantime? I want to know whether the Government followed up that matter and whether the Government enquired of the Government of Orissa from time to time in this regard? Is it a fact that these employees are

being put to great hardship due to the lack of accommodation in Cuttack?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is undoubtedly a realisation on our part that Government employees, particularly in the non-gazetted sector, find a great deal of difficulty in finding accommodation in far away places, and that is why we have given high priority for certain places for construction of houses. Whether the particular Town Planner or the Town Planning Officer is still there or not or whether changes have occurred since his report which was adverse so far as we are concerned, is a matter over which I cannot speak today without further information. But as my young colleague mentioned, the whole scheme is subjected to review in view of the present budgetary position; but I can give this assurance that in spite of the present budgetary position, do propose to go ahead as early as possible with the question of construction of staff quarters for the non-gazetted staff in those areas where quarters are not available, and we shall perhaps find out if there is a new Town Planning Officer in Cuttack who will be more reasonable than the one who has now apparently gone away.

Western Zonal Council

*716. Shri Mahagaonkar: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Western Zonal Council has not been inaugurated yet, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) The dates proposed for the meeting did not suit the States because of their pre-occupation with the general elections and sessions of the State Legislatures. The council will meet in the near future.

Shri Mahagaonkar: May I know when the next meeting of this Council will be held?