

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, Government is considering the provisions of this agreement. It is only after we decide whether we should be signatories to this agreement, that the question of our getting any share would arise.

CRACKS IN BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED BY C.P.W.D.

*1846. **Shri Jangde:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether cracks have appeared in the buildings of the New Mint and an Engineering College at Calcutta, which have been recently constructed by the C.P.W.D.?

(b) If so, what were the reasons therefor?

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

(b) *The crack in the New Mint Building* are due to expansion and contraction of the R.C.C. Slab.

The crack in the Main Marine Engineering College Building is an extremely fine hair crack, which is due to the very poor bearing capacity of the "Re-claimed Land" on which the building has been constructed. I might however, add that the cracks are not due to any engineering defects or defects in design, as reported by the Additional Chief Engineer. He further says that these cracks in the buildings in question are not of any serious nature and do not affect the structural safety of the buildings.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि यह जो मकानों में क्रैक्स हुए हैं वे टेकदारों की दजह से हुए हैं या गवर्नमेंट के सुपरवाइजर्स की डिजाई की दजह से हुए हैं ?

Shri Buragohain: I have already said that this is not due to any defect in design or due to the responsibility of the contractor. That is why the Additional Chief Engineer points out that no action against anybody is necessary.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: The attention of the Ministry was drawn to the cracks in many other buildings in other places, e.g. Timarpur quarters and other places and it was found that these defects were due to engineering negligence and contractors' frauds etc. May I know what steps have been taken to avoid a recurrence of such defects and to see that such

contractors do not get any more work wherever such defects are noticed?

Shri Buragohain: Sir, the question is very general. If anything specific is pointed out we will look into the matter.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: I have mentioned the Timarpur quarters.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know whether the cracks are the order of the day?

Shri Buragohain: In one case the building is still in progress and not yet complete, and the defect was due to the foundation being weak because it was built on reclaimed land. It has been strengthened at a nominal cost of Rs. 2,000. In the other case the crack is under observation. At any time this can be filled up by some plasterings.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Is the information based on the report of the Chief Engineer?

Shri Buragohain: Yes, the information is based on the report of the Additional Chief Engineer who is in charge of the Eastern Zone.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Was he the person under whose supervision these buildings were erected?

Shri Buragohain: They were erected under this Additional Chief Engineer's supervision by the Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineers.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if before the selection of the sites expert advice and report is not taken whether the sites are suitable for such buildings; and, if so, why these defects occurred later on?

Shri Buragohain: In one case test checks were carried out by the Executive Engineer which is in accordance with the usual engineering practice. But that check did not extend to the test being carried out to every square foot of it which is considered according to the usual engineering practice to be extravagant and expensive.

Shrimati A. Kale: Is Government aware that this Engineering College building is not even in a straight line and is leaking at several places?

Shri Buragohain: The Marine Engineering College is not yet complete, it is still in the process of construction.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि यह जो कलकत्ते के मैरीन इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज की बिल्डिंग में क्रैक्स हुए हैं उन

की जांच के लिये उन्हीं इंजीनियरों को भेजा जायेगा जिन के सुपरवीजन में बिल्डिंग बनाई गयी है या दूसरे इंजीनियर या निष्पक्ष आदमी जांच के लिये भेजे जावेंगे !

Shri Buragohain: In this particular case the land was selected for us by the West Bengal Government who offered this land free of cost, and before the selection of the site I believe the Ministry of Commerce also got it inspected and accepted that offer.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I understand him to ask as to why the same person who executed it, namely the Assistant Chief Engineer or Superintending Engineer, should be deputed to look into and report on the cracks and not any other independent or higher officer. I think that was his question.

Shri Buragohain: The Superintending Engineers were different in the two buildings. In one case it was one officer and in the other case it was another officer. And the Executive Engineers are also different for the two buildings.

Shri Badshah Gupta: Who is responsible for the defects in the buildings and who will bear the cost of repairs?

Shri Buragohain: According to the Additional Chief Engineer no one is responsible. He thinks that if this particular design is not found suitable he can carry out some changes in the design, for our other buildings of that nature.

Shri Gidwani: Are Government aware of the custom prevalent among contractors to pay some percentage to government officers?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That does not arise out of this.

Shri Punnoose: May I know how much financial loss these cracks would involve?

Shri Buragohain: In one case it has been rectified at a cost of Rs. 2,000, as I have already said. In the other case it has not been rectified.

BUILDINGS IN TILAIYA DAM AREA

*1847. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state what use is going to be made of the large number of bungalows and hutments located in the Tilaiya Dam area?

(b) Will they be sold off?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The matter is under the consideration of the D.V.C., who will reserve a small part of the camp for the permanent staff required for maintenance and operation work of the Tilaiya Hydro-Electric System.

(b) Yes Sir.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know whether there is a proposal to rehabilitate the refugees in some of the hutments that will come into disuse?

Shri Hathi: The offer is yet to be made to the Bihar Government. We do not know how the Bihar Government are going to utilise them.

Shri N. P. Sinha: Arising out of the answer to part (b) of the question, may I know how they will be sold—by auction or by inviting tenders?

Shri Hathi: If the Bihar Government does not want them, then of course they will be sold by public auction or by whatever method is found most profitable.

सेठ जचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इन बंगलों में और इन मकानों में कितना रुपया लगा ?

Shri Hathi: About Rs. 9,60,000.

BHADRAVATI IRON AND STEEL WORKS

*1848. **Shri Thimmajah:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the annual target of production of pig iron and steel in Bhadravati Iron and Steel Works, Mysore State?

(b) Is that target achieved every year and if not, why not?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix, XI, annexure No. 15]

Shri Thimmajah: It is stated in the report that the lower production of steel ingots is due to the limited availability of pig-iron. I would like to know what steps Government are taking to increase the availability of pig-iron and thereby increase the production of steel ingots.