

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They are governed by printed rules, copy of which would be in the Library.

PAY TO WORK-CHARGED STAFF ON MAHATMA GANDHI'S BIRTHDAY

***676. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday is a holiday for the work-charged staff of C.P.W.D. like the Independence Day and the Republic Day;

(b) whether the pay for 2nd October, 1952 was not given to the staff of the Horticulture Division on the ground that they did not attend to duty on Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that a deputation of the staff waited on the Minister demanding pay for the above date and if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Only those that absented themselves without permission to set off that day against the eight holidays; they are eligible to, were not given their pay.

(c) Yes, Sir. The matter was examined, but as it is not a public holiday to which they are entitled, and as they had not taken permission to set it off against the closed holidays allowed for them, it was not found possible to accede to their demand.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether it is a fact that there was a notice exhibited at the gate of the workshop that Mahatma Gandhi's birthday was declared as a holiday, and as per that notice the workers did not attend to duty?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No, Sir, the information of the hon. Member on that point is not correct.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the staff waited in deputation on the Minister and the Minister promised them that the matter would be looked into in their favour?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The members of the staff did wait upon me—if that is called waiting in deputation—but with some sort of demonstration; and all that I said was that I will look into the matter. I have looked into the matter. And now that my friend is forcing the issue, I have given the reply that the request cannot be acceded to.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether any promise was given to the staff that waited in deputation on the Minister that they would be given a favourable consideration?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, Sir, a promise was given, that the matter will be looked into. The matter has been looked into, and the reply has already been given by me.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the holidays for Independence Day and Republic Day will also be extended to the staff employed on a contractual basis?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a suggestion for action.

Shri K. K. Basu: I want to know.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants it and wants Government to take action.

BUILDING IN WHICH NETAJI WAS BORN

***679. Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to give the building in Cuttack (Orissa) in which Netaji was born as gift to the Government of India has been received;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the proposal has been accepted; and

(c) whether the Government of Orissa has been consulted before the acceptance of the proposal?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) The proposal is still under consideration.

(c) The Government of Orissa is being consulted at every stage.

Shri Sanganna: May I know how the right over the building has vested in the Government of Orissa?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There might be a difference of opinion on that point. I do not really catch the import of the question.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know how long this suggestion has been under the consideration of Government?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is not one of the very old cases.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I want a specific answer, because the matter is important.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have not got the details with me at the moment.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The matter was first referred to me rather informally. I enquired for further particulars and I referred the matter to the Chief Minister and Governor of Orissa for visiting the place personally. They visited it and sent a report. I could not quite make out in what manner to approach this question. So I suggested to Mr. Bose, who had written to me, that he might go to Cuttack and himself have a talk with the Governor and the Chief Minister. To that Mr. Bose has not sent a reply.

MIGRATION FROM LUSHAI HILLS

*681. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large scale migration of Indian Nationals from the district of Lushai Hills, Assam, has been going on unchecked during recent months?

(b) If so, what is their number and what are the causes of the migration?

(c) Have the Government of Burma made any representation to the Government of India on this matter?

(d) Have any steps been taken by the Government of India in this matter?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 24 Lushais are reported to have proceeded to Burma during the period August to December, 1952. The reasons for their migration appear to be close ethnological and linguistic affinity of Lushais with Change of Burma and expectation of employment in the Burma army.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Efforts have been made to absorb as many Lushai youths as are fit and suitable for enrolment in the Assam Rifles and Defence forces.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Is it not a fact that several thousands of them have migrated and settled down at Kalemyo in Burma, that is near the border?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not got the information at my disposal. I do not know. But so far as I know, there has been no large-scale movement. Some numbers go in search of employment and come back.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Are Government satisfied that no more Lushai people are going to Burma now?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no question of satisfaction. People are welcome to go. It is an open border. I do not see how anybody could object. I am myself going to cross that border in a few days' time.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Arising out of the answer given that some twenty-four Lushais have gone for seeking employment, may I know whether sufficient arrangements have been made to see that the Lushai people do not remain unemployed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a problem for the whole of India.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know whether Government has made proper enquiry as to whether Lushais are actually migrating from India to Burma or not?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have said I have no such information. My information is to the contrary, that some have gone but not in large numbers.

Shri Rishang Keishing rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is giving some information which is not accepted by the Government. Government have other information, that no large migration is taking place.

HIDES AND SKINS

*682. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt has been made to manufacture certain types of hides and skins which India has hitherto been importing from Pakistan? and

(b) whether the Government of India ceased to import these special kinds of hides and skins from Pakistan or Pakistan refused to export them to India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Hides and skins are not manufactured but are collected from dead cattle or from cattle slaughtered for their meat. Such imports from Pakistan of raw hides and skins as are necessary have to be obtained.

(b) No, Sir.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the special kinds of hides and skins