

indicate that the Sanitary Committees do not come within the definition of "urban area". Government have, therefore, no power to treat them as "urban areas".

**Shri Gidwani:** Are Government aware that these Sanitary Committees in Sind were wholly elected bodies with elected Presidents and the value of these properties was not only equal but in some cases higher than those included in the urban areas in the Claims Act?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** So far as the election goes, it may be so. But so far as the properties are concerned, there Government does not accept the premises that they were of a higher value than the corresponding properties in the urban areas.

**Shri Gidwani:** Is it a fact that before the rationalisation scheme was introduced these properties were treated as urban properties and assessed as such but subsequently when they were called for revision not only the claims were reduced but in some cases they were cancelled?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** They were never accepted as urban property.

**Shri Gidwani:** Is it a fact that they were assessed?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** If they were not accepted, they could not have been assessed.

**Shri Gidwani:** Is it a fact that by treating the properties in these areas as well as in many other rural areas as rural properties not only the unfortunate claimants were denied their legitimate share of compensation but the value of the properties is being reduced thus doing harm to our cause nationally and internationally?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** That is totally wrong because the method of assessing the value of urban and rural properties has been the same and as such no distinction was made.

#### SETTLEMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN HYDERABAD

\*2044. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government of Hyderabad have agreed to settle some families of displaced persons from Pakistan in the district of Nizamabad?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken by the Government of India for the resettlement of those displaced persons?

**The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle):** (a) Yes.

(b) The representatives of the families willing to go to Hyderabad have been advised to go and see for themselves the land available in the State. Thereafter, the families will be sent to Hyderabad if they agree to accept this land.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** May I know how many families of displaced persons are going to be settled down in Hyderabad?

**Shri J. K. Bhonsle:** 46.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Have Government given any financial aid to this scheme?

**Shri J. K. Bhonsle:** Rs. 2,000/- per annum.

**Dr. Suresh Chandra:** May I know whether these families are only Sindhi families or there are Punjabi families also?

**Shri J. K. Bhonsle:** These are from Parachinar and North West Frontier Province.

**Shri Heda:** In view of the fact that a fertile land of more than 500 acres which has been owned by the former Premier of Hyderabad is there in Hyderabad, may I know whether Government are considering to distribute this land to refugees and in case they are not forthcoming, whether they are going to settle the local people on that land?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** I believe the hon. Member refers to Mir Laik Ali's farm. A part of the farm has been settled on one year's basis with a local party, the rest of it is being given to the refugees.

**Shri Heda:** It has been given only for a year or two. May I know what is going to be decided in future?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Government have not taken a final decision regarding this property. Meanwhile these lands are being settled by people outside the Punjab only on a yearly basis.

**Dr. Suresh Chandra:** Is it a fact that this Laik Ali farm is being allotted only to the Sindhi refugees against the Punjabi refugees? If so, why this discrimination?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** There is no question of discrimination. In fact the Punjabi refugees have benefited more than the Sindhi refugees. Every landowner and every tenant in the Punjab has been given lands in Punjab and PEPSU on a quasi-permanent basis or otherwise by allotment.

**Dr. Suresh Chandra:** May I know whether Government have received any representations from the Sindhis themselves that they do not want land to be allotted there?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** We have not yet received any representation. On the other hand, there is a demand by the Sindhis that people from North West Frontier Province and the Bahawalpuris should be allotted lands.

#### COST OF LIVING INDEX

\*2045. **Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state how the figures for the Cost of Living Index are worked out?

(b) Is it a fact that the prices of consumers' goods have gone down recently?

(c) If so, what are the reasons which keep the Cost of Living Index so high in spite of the prices of consumers' goods going down?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** (a) The cost of living index is prepared with reference to changes in the cost of purchasing of representative collection of consumer goods as compared with the cost in a defined base period.

(b) Yes, Sir. Generally, the prices of a number of consumers' goods have registered a downward tendency since the middle of 1952.

(c) In 15 out of 16 industrial centres for which the Labour Bureau issues cost of Living Indices, there has been a downward trend since June-July, 1952. In other industrial centres for which State Governments issue their own indices, some centres have occasionally shown an upward movement. These are attributable partly to the composition of these indices and partly to local conditions. The All India Average Working Class cost of living index combining 24 different indices, in keeping with the downward trend of prices of consumers' goods, shows, on the whole, a declining trend since the peak attained in the last quarter of 1951.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know what steps have Government taken to work out figures for the cost of living index of agricultural labourers and to publish them?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** This refers to the cost of living in the urban areas, and labour industrial centres.

**Shri Nanadas:** Cost of living.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is irrelevant.

**Dr. Amin:** May I know whether these figures of cost of living give the correct indication regarding the trend of the prices?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I think so.

**Shri Altekar:** May I know whether the house rent is taken into consideration in arriving at the cost of living index?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** House rent is one of the considerations.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know the industrial centres where the cost of living was the highest in the year 1952?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Cost of living has been highest in cities like Bombay, Sholapur and Kanpur.

**Shri Raghavaiah:** May I know whether the cost of living index has fallen to such a stage as to be on a par with the purchasing power of the common man which has fallen \* \* \* ?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I will omit the latter part. It is not a matter for argument. Hon. Members are not expected to give their opinions here. They are only asked to put questions.

**Shri Raghavaiah:** I shall amend the question May I know whether the cost of living index is on a par with the purchasing power of the common man?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** As I have stated, there is already a general downward trend in the cost of living. I do not know what the hon. Member means by saying "on a par". I think that since July 1952, there is a continuing downward trend and I think the purchasing capacity and the prices are synchronising.