

of this officer, did it on the basis of the travels performed by this officer during holidays. So, it may be a good basis; it may not be. Subsequently, when the matter was reviewed again by the Government of India, it was shown that an officer who is attached to an Embassy has to travel on official business even on holidays. It is not a matter of using a conveyance merely for going to office. Therefore it was felt that the basis on which the apportionment was made, however reasonable it might have sounded at that time, might work to the detriment of the officer's interests.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Is it a fact that there were certain charges against this same officer in connection with his work in another Embassy?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I do not know. But, I can say that certain charges were made against this officer in respect of his working, in the way in which accounts were maintained. The matter has been gone into. We found that there was no misfeasance.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : इस आफिसर ने कितनी गाड़ियां ली थीं ?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I think the hon. Member knows English. He can ask the question in English.

**Shri P. N. Rajabhoj:** The hon. Minister must understand Hindi also.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is all right. The hon. Member may speak in English.

**Shri P. N. Rajabhoj:** I would like to know how many cars were taken by that officer.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** There is no question of his getting many cars. He had no car at all. It was recommended that he should be allowed to purchase a car. In the mean time, he was making use of the pool of the British Embassy. The British Embassy were debiting us with the cost of the use of cars. It may be the use of one car today, another car tomorrow.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** 978.

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain):** There is another question, No. 986 which is on the same subject.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Both of them may be answered together.

#### INDIA STORES DEPARTMENT AND INDIA SUPPLY MISSION

**\*978. Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state what are the recommendations of the two Small Expert Committees appointed in November, 1952 to suggest ways and means to improve the machinery of the India Stores Department in London and the India Supply Mission in Washington, if they have completed their work?

(b) What are the steps taken by Government to implement the recommendations, part of them or any of them?

(c) What are the terms of reference of the new Committee appointed in this connection and when is it likely to conclude its work?

**The Deputy Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain):** (a) The main recommendations cover—

(i) the improvement in the existing methods of preparation of indents by indenting departments and in the handling of such indents by the two overseas Purchasing Organisations with a view to ensure better and more prompt service to indentors;

(ii) Provision of adequate staff for the efficient handling of procurement work; and

(iii) Reorganisation of the staff at niger level by progressive Indianisation consistent with financial considerations in order to improve the standard of efficiency in the two organisations.

(b) These recommendations will amongst other things be considered by the Stores Purchase Committee that has recently been appointed under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Minister.

(c) The terms of reference of the Committee are contained in the resolution published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, dated the 11th March 1953, a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. S-23/53.]

The Committee is likely to conclude its work in about 4 months' time.

#### RE-ORGANISATION OF THE CENTRAL PURCHASE ORGANISATION

**\*986. Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:** (a) Will the Minister of Works,

**Housing and Supply** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an Expert Committee to review the policy and working of the Central Purchase Organisation has been set up by the Central Government?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the terms of reference of the Committee?

(c) Who are the Members of the Committee and what is the progress of work of the Committee so far?

(d) Has any preliminary report been submitted to Government by the Committee and if so, do Government propose to place their recommendations on the Table of the House?

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

(b) and (c). A copy of the Resolution of the Government of India, No. P-3(201) published in *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, dated the 11th March 1953, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. S-24/53.]

(d) The Committee having only recently been appointed no preliminary report could be expected so soon.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** The Gazette of India notification to which reference has been made is before me. I do not find from that whether any reference has been made to the Committee regarding the examination of the previous irregularities which have been committed in this organisation. May I know if anything of this nature is included in this?

**Shri Buragohain:** This Committee is not set up to go into specific transactions. But it is to enquire into rules and procedure and other matters concerning the organisation at the various levels and also regarding planning of indents and progressing of indents, and all other connected things. It is more to the future, in view of the increasing tempo of our economic activities, than to the past that the Committee's attention will be directed.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** May I know if the Committees instituted to go into this question have recommended anything in this connection after going into the irregularities, as remedy?

**Shri Buragohain:** The Committee has, as I said, been set up only recently.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** I refer to the two committees that were set up before.

**Shri Buragohain:** The Committee has not referred to any specific transaction. It was not also asked to do so in the terms of reference. It merely examined, as I have indicated already, the existing procedure with a view to its future improvement so that any weaknesses could be eliminated and usefulness could be improved.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Has this new Committee been appointed merely to implement the recommendations of previous committees or have the recommendations of the previous Committees including those of the Kasturbhai Lalbhai Committee been found inadequate for the purposes?

**Shri Buragohain:** I do not understand to which committee my hon. friend is referring in the last portion of the question.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** On the question of Stores, there have been committees both in the Railways Ministry as well as elsewhere. I am referring to the Kasturbhai Lalbhai Committee which went into this question of stores and made certain recommendations regarding the Stores Department organisation itself and suggested an independent organisation. May I know if these recommendations have been found inadequate for our purposes and this new Committee has therefore been appointed?

**Shri Buragohain:** The Kasturbhai Lalbhai Committee did not examine the Purchase Organisation. What that committee examined was the Central Public Works Department. So far as the two committees which have recently reported—regional committees set up in London and Washington—are concerned, their recommendations will be placed before this Committee only to coordinate the procedure and activities of the three purchasing organisations. The primary task of the Committee that is now set up is to examine the working of the organization in India, viz., the Directorate-General of Supplies and Disposals.

**Shri Bansal:** I think the hon. Member is referring to the Shroff Report on Stores Purchases, and not to Kasturbhai Lalbhai.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know whether besides this question of implementation of the previous committees' recommendations and also the stores re-organization, this Committee is going into the question of other stores' organizations run by other Departments of the Government who do this job of stores purchases?

**Shri Buragohain:** I think nothing can prevent this Committee from going into all these things. It has already taken steps to get itself familiarised with the indenting of stores which is really the concern of the various Ministries, and, in fact, this Committee is so constituted as to include representatives of the various Ministries concerned, including Finance. A representative of the Comptroller and Auditor-General is also included in it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question. We have spent enough time over this matter.

#### OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT

\*979. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have signed any Operational Agreement with the Government of U.S.A. in December, 1952;

(b) if so, what are the terms of the Agreement; and

(c) whether the number of Development Blocks has been increased by this agreement?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A copy of the Supplement to Operational Agreement No. 8 on Community Development Programme is laid on the Table. [See Appendix VI. annexure No. 50.]

**Shri Ram Dass:** May I know whether the allocation of Development Blocks which was to be made before 31st March, 1953, has been made or not?

**Shri Hathi:** No. The allotment has not yet been made.

**Shri Bansal:** Is there any allotment in this for dry farming areas?

**Shri Hathi:** As I have stated on previous occasions, the recommendations of the State Governments are invited. The allocation will depend on the recommendations of the State Governments.

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** May I know under what heads these blocks have been included?

**Shri Hathi:** I have not followed what the hon. Member means.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I think the hon. Minister need not answer this question. Next question.

#### ताजमहल बनाने का उद्योग

\*९८३. **सेठ अचल सिंह :** क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को यह मालम है कि इटली से निर्यात किए जाने वाले अल्बार्स्टर पत्थर के अभाव में तथा उस के महंगे होने के कारण आगरे के ताज-महल बनाने के उद्योग की बड़ी बुरी दशा है ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में कोई समुचित प्रबन्ध कर रही है ?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) and (b). The Taj Modelling and the Marble Carving Industry were experiencing difficulty for some time but the position has now improved. As a result of investigation and experiment, the soap-stone available in the interior of Almorā and Garhwal Districts have been found suitable for Marble-carving and these are being supplied to the Marble-workers of Agra by the U.P. Government. The State has also arranged for the import of 15 tons of Alabaster stone from Italy for the marble workers' Co-operative Society.

**सेठ अचल सिंह :** क्या सरकार को ज्ञात है कि इन ताज माडल से काफी डालर्स आते हैं ?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** May be, Sir. I am not in a position to answer the question.

**सेठ अचल सिंह :** क्या सरकार ने इटली से जो पत्थर आता है, उसका एक्सपेरीमेंट कराया है ?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** In this matter, I am entirely guided by the State Governments. Apparently, the U. P. Government considers that this substitute can be used.

**Shri Achuthan:** May I know the number of families engaged in this industry, roughly?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I would like to have notice.