

## ALMORA CANTONMENT

\*835. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Almora Cantonment has a population of less than 500?

(b) How many residential houses are there within its area belonging to private persons?

(c) Have these residential houses now been turned into public offices?

(d) Is it a fact that the Cantonment area remains pitch dark at night?

(e) Is the water condition in the Cantonment area precarious?

(f) Is it a fact that this area has enormous potentialities to attract tourists and visitors to this beautiful hill station?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia):** (a) The present population of the Cantonment is 700 approximately.

(b) 14 bungalows and few other small houses.

(c) Six of them.

(d) The Cantonment has to depend on kerosene lights as it has no electricity.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The Cantonment area as such has very little possibilities in this respect.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** May I know in reply to part (c) what early steps the Government propose to take to free these residential houses?

**Sardar Majithia:** The Government always considers whether any houses are needed by them and if they are not needed by them they are always released.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** May I know what steps are the Government taking to introduce electricity in the near future?

**Sardar Majithia:** For the information of the hon. Member, I may state that

the adjoining municipality has got electricity and they have already been approached to extend their scheme to bring this cantonment into it

**Shri C. D. Pande:** May I know if Government have any intention to post a regiment there so that the cantonment may be prosperous.

**Sardar Majithia:** It is not possible because the accommodation is not there. But in case we find that we can use this accommodation for sending any formation which can be accommodated, Government is always willing to consider that.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात पर विचार कर रहे हैं कि इस कैंटनमेंट की आबादी कम होने के कारण इसे नज़दीक की म्युनिसिपैल्टी में मिला दिया जाय ?

**Sardar Majithia:** That is coupled with the whole question of excision. At the moment I do not think this is under consideration.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** In view of the fact that there is no electricity in the cantonment, has Government made any arrangement for protection at night?

**Sardar Majithia:** I think the Military can look after itself.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** Has Government any proposal to merge the cantonment area with the adjoining municipality if they have no proposal for garrisoning troops there?

**Sardar Majithia:** I have already answered that question, Sir.

## ELECTIONS TO SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT BOARD

\*836. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether there would be elections to the Secunderabad Cantonment Board; and

(b) if so, when?