

Shri Hathi: It is not obligatory, but the Committee can do so if it thinks it necessary.

MOVABLE EVACUEE PROPERTY

*1526. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan Government have agreed to allow free removal of cash or bullion by evacuees; and

(b) whether the Pakistan Government have also agreed that no Income-tax Clearance Certificate would be demanded from an evacuee seeking restoration of movable property?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) No.

(b) The position is that under the Pakistan Income-tax Law, persons visiting that country and whose stay does not exceed 30 days for a single travel and 60 days aggregating repeated travels in one year are exempted from the production of Income-tax Clearance Certificate. The Pakistan Government are of the view that these exemption periods should be sufficient to cover the cases of evacuees who will be visiting Pakistan for restoration of their movable properties. They have also advised that there would be no difficulty in obtaining exemption certificates in cases in which evacuees stayed in Pakistan for more than the exemption periods, provided they did not engage themselves in gainful employment in Pakistan during their stay.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT PURCHASES

*1527. **Shri Ramananda Das:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supply Department purchases large quantities of shoes, chappals, leather bags, belts and boots every year;

(b) the total quantity of such purchases in 1953. and

(c) whether it is a fact that such purchases are made from large-scale industrial firms and cottage industry products are excluded?

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

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 23.]

(c) No, Sir.

Shri Ramananda Das: May I know what quantities of these articles were purchased from large-scale industries like Bata, Kanpur and Agra, and what quantities were purchased from cottage industries products?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think the hon. Member will be satisfied if I give him the percentages of the purchase from cottage and small-scale units. This is of the order of 24.5 per cent. of the total value.

Shri Ramananda Das: May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to encourage cottage industries and to make all the purchases from cottage industries as per the eleven-point programme of the Planning Commission?

Sardar Swaran Singh: We need not go to the Planning Commission for this thing, because by Government's Resolution dated the 20th June 1952, it has been made clear that it is the Government's intention to give price preference to articles which are manufactured by cottage industries, and Government is prepared, in suitable cases, to consider relaxation to a certain extent so far as the specifications are concerned.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Are any quantities out of these imported from abroad?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Not out of these purchases.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the extent of price preference given to khadi?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That is a different question altogether. How can

shoes, chappals and khadi go together? However, the policy with regard to price preference is there for khadi, and even according to the Resolution that I have referred to, the price preference may be as much as 20 per cent. besides the three-anna rebate, which is permissible under the scheme of the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Shri H. N. Mukherjee: Is any purchase in these categories made from abroad, and, if so, what would be its proportion?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No, not out of these.

LOW COST HOUSING SCHEME

*1528. **Shri L. Jageswar Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken to popularise in the country the low cost housing scheme?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): There is no ready made low cost housing scheme as such, which Government have formulated so far. Perhaps the hon. Member wishes to know the measures that Government propose to take for popularising the designs displayed in the International Exhibition on Low Cost Housing; if so, it is proposed to undertake a detailed study of all the model houses in the Exhibition Grounds from various points of view, including their actual liveability and thereafter make the results available to all those who may be interested.

Shri L. Jageswar Singh: May I know whether Government propose to adopt any scheme so as to construct houses anywhere in India after the models exhibited in the International Low Cost Housing Exhibition grounds?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I must confess that I have not got the correct import of the question. If the hon. Member wants to know as to whether Government has got any scheme of constructing houses anywhere in the country my reply would be: "Yes". Government is undertaking construction of houses of

various categories for Government employees, for industrial labour, for refugees, for workers in the coal mines and for quite a few other categories. If he further wants to know if any of the models which were displayed in the Low Cost Housing Exhibition is going to be adopted by Government, this is already covered by the reply I have given that a detailed study will be undertaken and there will not be any hesitation to adopt such of the models out of these which might suit any particular locality.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether the National Building Organisation will be the machinery through which Government intends to implement the proposals stated by the hon. Minister?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Not for building houses. This body is for research and co-ordination, not for construction.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I meant for popularising building techniques?

Sardar Swaran Singh: N.B.O. will certainly popularise building techniques.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that most of the visitors who have returned after visiting the Low Cost Housing Exhibition think that this is not a low cost housing exhibition, but a high cost housing exhibition?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not subscribe to that view. My experience is quite the other way about.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: What do Government intend to do with the model houses constructed at the Exhibition?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The houses will be kept there under observation and may after some time be utilised for occupation.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether efforts have been made to utilise soft wood for the construction of low cost houses?