

EX-EMPLOYEES OF CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENTS

*1120. **Shri I. Eacharan:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to absorb the retrenched staff of the Civil Supplies Departments of the States; and

(b) if so, the percentage of the discharged ex-employees who are likely to be absorbed?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). Government have agreed to accord employment assistance to the retrenched staff of the Civil Supplies Departments of the State Governments on a priority basis. For this purpose they have been accorded the same priority as the retrenched Central Government employees other than those who are declared surplus on the recommendation of the Economy Unit. It is not possible to say how many or what proportion of the discharged employees would actually be absorbed as a result of this assistance.

Shri I. Eacharan: May I know what are the minimum conditions to be satisfied for recruitment, and the Departments in which they are likely to be taken in?

Shri Datar: There are no minimum conditions at all. They would be given posts more or less equal or analogous to those that they held in the State Government.

Diwan Raghavendra Rao: May I know if the Government propose to give exemption in respect of age, etc. in the case of these employees?

Shri Datar: I am not sure whether exemption can be given except when it has already been granted by the State.

**CENTRAL BUILDING RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
ROORKEE**

*1131. **Diwan Raghavendra Rao:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently constructed building of the Central Building

Research Institute at Roorkee has been defaced and reconstructed on the basis of a new design; and

(b) the cost of the originally constructed building and the additional expenditure for changing it to the new design?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) The recently constructed building of the Central Building Research Institute at Roorkee has not been defaced. The Council Architects have, however, recently reported that the Director of the Laboratory had removed the corrugated decorative tile wall on one side of the building. No new structure has been put up in place of the decorative wall.

(b) The cost of the building was Rs. 8,67,000. In view of the position stated at (a) above the question of additional expenditure on reconstruction does not arise.

Diwan Raghavendra Rao: May I know if the original building was designed by a qualified architect, and if a change has been brought about, why and by whom it has been brought about, and if the person who has brought about the change is a qualified architect and designer?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The building was designed by a qualified architect of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Director of the Building Research Institute was responsible for removing this corrugated decorative brick wall. But, no action seems to be necessary now, because it was not considered necessary or worthwhile.

Diwan Raghavendra Rao: May I know if the originally estimated cost of this building was Rs. 600,000 and the actual cost is Rs. 800,000?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The latter information is given just now. I should like to have notice to answer the first part.

Diwan Raghavendra Rao: May I know if the reservoir in this building

was originally to cost Rs. 25,000 and because of the whim of the Director, it has cost Rs. 50,000?

Shri K. D. Mahaviya: I have no such information.

CROSSWORD PUZZLES

*1184. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madras have requested the Government of India to ban the system of "Crossword or Squareword" puzzles and competitions by bringing in a suitable legislation;

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken to ban them; and

(c) whether any other State has also made a similar suggestion?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (c). A proposal to remedy the evil of Crossword puzzles and similar prize competitions was circulated to the State Governments for their views, in response to which the Government of Madras have expressed their views; some other State Governments have also sent in their opinions.

(b) Question of promoting suitable legislation is under consideration.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I know in which of the States this system has been banned already?

Shri Datar: I am not sure whether it has been banned. It has been controlled in certain States.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I ask the hon. Minister how long it will take for the Government of India to get out of these puzzles and bring a suitable legislation?

Shri Datar: It will not take long because we have now got the full views of the State Governments. The question before the Government is whether to effect a complete ban or to introduce control or licensing system. Government are considering which course to follow.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether they provide any source of income also, and if so, what is the income obtained?

Shri Datar: Government are not looking at it from the point of view of a source of income. They are looking at it from an ethical point of view.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: I wanted to know whether it provided a source of income.

Shri Datar: I think it does so far as certain State Governments are concerned.

Shri Matthen: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware of the exploitation done by the so-called respectable newspapers or people by means of these crossword puzzles?

Shri Datar: Government are fully aware and that is the reason why Central legislation is being considered.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS MILITARY LANDS

*1136. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether a list of all surplus military lands that are shortly to be disposed of by sale has been drawn up and published or is proposed to be published?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): A list of all surplus military camping grounds has been drawn up but has not been published nor is it proposed to publish it as it is a very long list. Details of the camping grounds can however be obtained from the Office of the Director, Military Lands and Cantonments, on application.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the machinery for effecting the sales?

Shri Tyagi: These lands have been offered in the first instance to the various Ministries of the Central Government. After that, they will be offered to the State Governments, and