

(b) The tenements built by the Government of Bombay have been purchased for housing the staff already in Hubli and not in pursuance of any decision relating to the regrouping of the Southern Railway.

(c) As the reasons for preferring Mysore to Hubli still hold good, Government are unable to state when the shift is likely to take place.

PREVENTIVE DETENTION ACT

*1359. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what amount of expenditure the Government of India have incurred in connection with the implementation of the Preventive Detention Act?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The Government of India have incurred no such expenditure since no person was detained under the Act under their orders.

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

*1360. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to have elected Members for the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The matter is under consideration.

DISPLACED P. AND T. EMPLOYEES IN MATAPAN LINES

*1361. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many displaced P. & T. employees are living in the Matapan Lines, P. & T. Transit Camp;

(b) how much floor space has been allotted to each and what amenities are provided in this camp and on what basis;

(c) whether Government have cut their house rent allowance and if so, when it was cut and why;

(d) whether an additional 5 per cent is being cut from their salaries and if so, why; and

(e) when Government propose quartering these employees in proper houses?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 92.

(b) Average area provided is 417 sq. ft.

In the way of amenities, electricity is available and one or two common

water taps, baths and latrines are available for each barrack housing six or seven families.

There are ration and grocery shops on the premises run by private parties. An elementary school run by the New Delhi Municipal Committee exists. A room has been set apart for a Recreation Club.

(c) Yes, House Rent Allowance is being forfeited since December, 1947, when these barracks ceased to be a transit camp.

As a matter of principle, no official who has been provided with Government accommodation is allowed to draw House Rent Allowance.

(d) Yes, generally speaking, rent for accommodation provided by Government is charged at 10 per cent. of the emoluments. But since this accommodation cannot be treated as standard, rent recovery at a concessional rate of 5 per cent., instead of the usual 10 per cent. has been ordered with effect from 1st January, 1950.

(e) Approximately by the end of the next financial year when new quarters are likely to be ready.

WASTE LANDS IN MANIPUR

*1362. **Shri Bishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage of cultivable waste lands in Manipur;

(b) how much of such land has been settled with landless peasants and how much remains uncultivated; and

(c) whether it is the policy of Government to bring the waste land under cultivation?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) It is the policy of Government to encourage the cultivation of cultivable waste lands; even legislative measures are being implemented or are under contemplation for this purpose. The hon. Member will doubtless appreciate, however, that there are sometimes competing demands for the use of these waste lands and when these arise, the question becomes one of priorities and best use to which the land can be put in public interests.