

to India through the High Commissioner's Office before it was finally settled?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Which consulting firm—the present one or the past one?

Mr. Speaker: I think he is referring to certain contract, in regard to which the hon. Minister said that, it is not in the public interest to disclose the action which Government intend to take.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, the recurring expenditure of this Housing factory per mensem?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am afraid I cannot give the exact figure.

Dr. Jaisoorya: May I know whether any German firm offered any formula towards this housing scheme?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot give a definite answer straightway.

SURPLUS STORES FOR DISPOSAL

*1201. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the value of surplus stores disposed of since the 31st December 1950 out of those which were awaiting disposal as on that date; and

(b) the value of stores lying undisposed of since then?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Surplus stores of the total book value of about Rs. 34 crores were disposed of since 31st December, 1950 to 30th April 1952.

These disposals are not only against surpluses awaiting disposal on 31st December 1950 but also against fresh declarations during the period 31st December 1950 to 30th April 1952.

(b) The book value of stores awaiting disposal as on the 30th April 1952 was Rs. 37½ crores.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: May I know what time Government will take in disposing of these surplus goods and whether there is any proposal to wind up this Disposals Department?

Shri Buragohain: I may explain the position, Sir. Under the disposal policy it is compulsory for Civil Departments of the Government of India to report their surplus exceeding Rs. 1,000 in book value to the Disposals Organisation for disposal. The Defence Services report stores exceeding Rs. 5,000 in book value to the Disposals Organisation. So, it is more or less a continuous process. The new surpluses which are declared merge into the war surpluses. If my

hon. friend wants to know about the position of the war surpluses, the bulk of them have already been disposed of. It is expected that in the course of the current financial year most of the rest will be disposed of.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Am I to understand that it is the intention of Government to perpetuate this Department of Disposals?

Shri Buragohain: As I have already explained the position, it is more or less a continuous process. Some stores become surplus to requirements and others become obsolete. They are made over to this Organisation.

If I might further explain, the strength of this organisation has been reduced from time to time. In 1948 the strength of this organisation was more than 8,000. Last year when this Organisation was merged into the Supply Department it was reduced to 1,900. This year it has further come down to about 1,100.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it a fact, Sir, that very often these goods are sold to contractors at very low prices?

Shri Buragohain: That might have been the position in the very initial stages when the insistence was on rapidity of disposal.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is any effort being made, where the prices offered by bidders is very low to offer the goods to displaced persons?

Mr. Speaker: He is making a suggestion for action.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether goods intended for the use of Government were later condemned and if so what is the value of them?

Mr. Speaker: How can it be replied?

Shri Velayudhan: The goods were meant for the use of Government. They were condemned so that the Disposals Department may go on.....

Mr. Speaker: At any rate the question appears to be too vague to be admitted.

UNEMPLOYMENT

*1202. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government have collected statistics of educated unemployed persons in India from the various Employment Exchanges?

(b) if so, how many matriculates, non-matriculates, under-graduates, graduates and post-graduates are unemployed at present?