

THE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(Part I—Questions and Answers)

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OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 27th May, 1952.

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight  
of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HOUSING FACTORY, DELHI

\*181. **Shri Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representative of the Swedish Firm, who was invited to Delhi for discussions in respect of the best use which the Housing Factory, in Delhi can be put to, has given his advice; and

(b) whether any decision has been taken as to what material this factory would produce?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) Yes.

(b) Subject to a satisfactory agreement being entered into, with the firm of Basakha Singh Wallenborg and Son, it has been decided that the Factory should be used for the manufacture of prefabricated houses, pre-stressed concrete components and lignoma boards.

**Shri Hukam Singh:** Had this firm whose representative was invited here anything to do with the setting up of this housing factory earlier?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** No, Sir.

**Shri Hukam Singh:** Have we had to pay some amount and, if so, how much for this advice?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** No. Certain proposals have been formulated which are

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engaging the attention of both the Government and the representative of the firm. They are yet to be finalised.

**Shri Hukam Singh:** Were any Indian associates of this firm associated when this advice was being sought?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** Yes, Sir. Shri Basakha Singh who is the Indian partner of this company to which I have referred has participated in the discussions.

**Shri Hukam Singh:** Was that proposal for making pre-cast roofing material and asbestos sheets given up or is still under consideration?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** The proposal of this company was to manufacture pre-fabricated houses. That has been supplemented later on by the proposal to manufacture certain other pre-stressed concrete components like Railway sleepers, hangers, electric poles and articles of that kind, and also lignoma boards.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Has the Housing Factory stopped its work or is it progressing?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** I am sorry to intervene, Sir. The Housing Factory, if I may perhaps repeat what has already been said, is a very fine factory as a factory. The experiments that we have made to begin with were not wholly successful because the panels cracked. There is no doubt subsequent experiments have shown that good panels can be made, but the question then became one as to whether they would be economically justifiable. Since then we have been in contact with various concerns: one is that to which reference has been made, another about some asbestos things. They are all possibilities—one has to choose the best of them. For the moment we are inclined to choose that particular offer which does not involve any additional capital expenditure and which promises fairly good results.