

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 25th November, 1958.

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Air-conditioning of Government Buildings

213. **Shri J. B. S. Bist:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have taken a decision not to air-condition newly constructed office buildings in New Delhi and other places in view of foreign exchange involved in buying the equipments, and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide air-coolers in rooms of officers and the total expenditure involved in it?

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) No Only the installation of centralised air-conditioning plants, for which the new buildings are designed has been deferred because of shortage of foreign exchange.

(b) Small air-conditioning units, not involving foreign exchange, have been provided in the rooms of some officers in the office buildings on King Edward Road, Queen Victoria Road and Hardinge Avenue, New Delhi at a cost of about Rs 9,59,000/-.

**Shri J. B. S. Bist:** In regard to the answer to part (b) of the question, may I know why this discrimination is being made?

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**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** These buildings, on the Queen Victoria Road, King Edward Road and Hardinge Avenue have been built on austerity pattern with very thin walls and the height of the rooms is also very low, with the result that it is really impossible to carry on with work in these rooms. These buildings were so designed that they would be provided with air-conditioning facilities but because of the scarcity of foreign exchange and difficulties of finance, we are not putting the whole building under the air-conditioning system, and only some senior officers have been provided with air-conditioners.

**Shri J. B. S. Bist:** Are we to understand that it is because of the low roofing that this discrimination has been made?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** Normally speaking, I should think the climate of Delhi requires that every office should be provided with air-conditioning.

**Shri Tyagi:** Are the Government aware that for the last 100 years or more, when the British who were accustomed to cool climate were here, no building in Delhi was air-conditioned?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** Firstly, in those days, the Government used to move out during summer months to Simla and secondly, air-conditioning was not perfected in those days.

सेठ गोबिन्द दास . श्री मन्त्री जी ने कहा कि इस सम्बन्ध में सिर्फ़ ऐसी ही सामग्री को मंगाया जा रहा है जिसमें कि हमको विदेशी मुद्रा की छूटचल न पड़े । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो ६ लाख ६० की सामग्री मंगाई गई वह विदेशों में से मंगाई गई है या इसी देश में तैयार की गई है ।

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** In my answer I have said that no foreign exchange was involved; because of this we have been taking recourse to small air-conditioning units of indigenous manufacture.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** In view of the fact that generally speaking office and residential accommodation is air-conditioned in many places while even operating theatres in hospitals are not, do we have any system of priority in regard to the allotment of air-conditioning apparatus and, if so, how does that system of priority operate?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** That does not concern WHS Ministry. If a private cinema house wants to have the building equipped with air-conditioning plant, it is for the cinema house to buy the thing and secure the foreign exchange.

Some Hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. The question was that even hospitals do not have the equipment.

**Shri Tangamani:** Not cinema theatres.

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** I may say that it is the policy of the Government to give priority to hospitals and also for cold storage purposes in relation to vegetables, fruits etc., and least priority to provide individual refrigeration apparatus.

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** It has been said that these buildings were constructed on austerity pattern. May I know how much money was saved in raising such buildings and how it compares with the expenditure on air-conditioning?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** I could not give a detailed answer, but from the very look of the buildings, it would be seen that whereas formerly, to a certain height, there used to be one or two storeys, we are now putting up buildings with four or five sto-

reys. There must be considerable saving in construction.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** The hon. Minister of Industry said that the policy of the Government is to give priority to hospital theatres. May we know whether the Government will consider that in Delhi itself there are many operation theatres which are not air-conditioned and therefore, before air-conditioning is done in other places these theatres will be given air-conditioning units?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is a suggestion for action.

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** That suggestion can be made to the Health Ministry.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have said it is a suggestion for action.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know the total amount spent on air-conditioning Government buildings in Delhi during 1956-57 and 1957-58?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** I have not got all the details with me, but so far as the office buildings on King Edward Road, Queen Victoria Road and Hardinge Avenue are concerned,—these are new offices—we have spent a little over Rs. 9,59,000, as I said in the answer.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : यह जो ९ लाख २० की सामग्री मंगवाई गई है, उस के बारे में मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं मिला था कि वह बाहर से मंगवाई गई है या इसी देश में तैयार हुई है ?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** These are new air-conditioning units which are available in India itself. In my answer I have said that no foreign exchange was involved. There are several companies in India such as Sur Refrigerators, Calcutta and Voltas in Bombay who produce air-conditioning units.

Some Hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question. Air-conditioning is not wanted during this season!

**Supply of Iron Ore to Italy**

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 \*214. { **Shri V. C. Shukla:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Bahadur Singh:**  
**Shri Vajpayee:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 749 on the 1st September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the examination of the proposal from Italy to buy iron ore on long term basis from the west coast has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the board details of the decision taken thereon?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) Not, yet.

(b) The matter is still under consideration.

**Shri V. C. Shukla:** May I know whether only low-grade ore is being considered to be exported through the State Trading Corporation under this agreement?

**Shri Kanungo:** There is no agreement yet. It is only a sort of exploratory talks which have been held, because the project involves heavy capital investment in the form of railways and port development

**Shri V. C. Shukla:** May we know if ore of both grades will be taken up?

**Shri Kanungo:** Both grades, because the continental steel mills will use a large quantity of high-grade ore

11.06 hrs.

[**MR. SPEAKER** in the Chair]

**Shri V. C. Shukla:** Is it a fact that the expert committee appointed by the Government strongly advised against the export of ore with 65 per cent. ferrous content and that the Government have entered upon an agreement to export two million tons

of iron ore with 65 per cent. content every year against the advice of this expert committee?

**Shri Kanungo:** I am not aware of any expert committee having given advice on this,—at least not to the Government. But, in any case, the export of high-grade ore has been a traditional line of export for nearly half a century.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** May I know whether there is any fresh proposal to buy iron ore on normal long-term basis?

**Shri Kanungo:** We have got a long-term contract with Japan for more than five years. This is a proposal which has been considered. There is no contract yet.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether Italy has offered some loan on deferred payment basis for renovating some intermediate port on the west coast for supply of iron ore?

**Shri Kanungo:** There is no offer as yet. As I have said earlier, there have been exploratory talks for the development of west coast ports so that the continental buyers may obtain a certain amount of iron ore.

**Shri V. C. Shukla:** May I know which ports on the west coast are under consideration of the Government for development, for the purpose of exporting this ore?

**Shri Kanungo:** Mangalore, Honavar, Karwar and some other intermediate ports, but it will all depend upon the hinterland and communications as they emerge out of the discussions.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** Is it a fact that an Italian firm has offered to improve the Mangalore port and also help in regard to the Hassan-Mangalore railway project in order to facilitate the export of low-grade iron ore from that port?

**Shri Kanungo:** In reply to a previous supplementary question I have said that there has been no offer