

tillage implements, digging and filling of compost and soak pits, use of vaccines to control cattle diseases, spraying of insecticides on crops against pests and diseases, (ii) technical assistance in the building of roads, school buildings, rural houses, water supply and irrigation schemes, reclamation of land, (iii) organisation of Bal Mandals and (iv) cultural programmes, running of literacy classes, cooperative societies and mobile libraries.

The employment position is satisfactory, and the graduates have proved useful for development programmes.

#### Land Acquisition in Delhi

**1048. Shri Shiv Charan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how much land has been notified for acquisition in Delhi since November, 1959;

(b) how much land has been developed so far;

(c) how many plots have been allotted to public for housing and industrial purposes separately so far;

(d) how much land has been allotted to house building co-operative societies and industrial co-operative societies so far; and

(e) what is the progress of these schemes?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) Above 50,000 acres.

(b) About 2,945 acres are under development.

(c) Plots will be made available to the public for industrial and housing purposes only when they have been developed. 242 plots totalling 26,760 sq. yards have been allotted to individuals in the low income group. These plots were still under development when the allotment was made and possession thereof would be given to the allottees after the development work has been completed.

(d) About 620 acres of land has already been allotted to house building co-operative societies and about 500 acres have been offered for allotment to the industrial estate co-operative societies.

(e) About 2,000 developed plots are expected to be ready for allotment soon.

The allotment to the industrial estate co-operative societies will be made as soon as the cost of land which they have been asked to deposit is paid by them to the Government.

The house building cooperative societies to whom allotments have been made are preparing their lay-out plans and formulating their schemes for development of land allotted to them.

#### Delhi Fire Service

**1049. Shri Shiv Charan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the provision made in the Second and Third Five Year Plans for the expansion of Delhi Fire Service; and

(b) to what extent this provision has been utilized?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shrimati Chandrasekhar):** (a) No provision has been made in the Second and Third Five Year Plans for the expansion of the Delhi Fire Service. However, an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 58 lakhs was approved for the purpose in March 1959 as a non-Plan Scheme. This amount has since been raised to Rs. 72.6 lakhs.

(b) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi, who are concerned, have so far incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 25 lakhs.

#### Publication of News Prejudicial to Defence

**1050. Shri Y. D. Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state;

(a) whether any warning has been given to newspapers by Government

for having published material prejudicial to the defence of India; and

(b) if so, the names of such newspapers?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) and (b). In consultation with the Central Press Advisory Committee appointed by the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Government have issued warnings to the editors, printers and publishers of "The Current", an English weekly of Bombay; "Organiser" an English weekly of Delhi; "Hindusthan", an Urdu daily of Bombay; and "Panchjanya", a Hindi weekly of Lucknow.

12.07 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN TUSKER  
PROJECT

**Dr. I. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur):** Under Rule 197, I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The alleged irregularities in the Tusker Project.

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in May 1960, a Chief Engineer's Organisation ("Project Tusker") was set up with Headquarters at Tezpur for planning and execution of projects in NEFA and Assam as approved by the Border Roads Development Board from time to time.

2. These projects are executed departmentally. For this purpose, the Board has raised General Reserve Engineer Force composed of civilians recruited from the open market and organised on Army pattern. They are subject to the Army Act for purposes of discipline only. Some Army officers and other ranks are employed to

stiffen the supervisory cadre of General Reserve Engineer Force units. Some units of Army were also obtained on loan for expeditious execution of these projects. Casual personnel (mainly unskilled) are employed on as required basis to supplement the General Reserve Engineer Force and Army personnel.

3. No contractors are employed on road construction projects in the forward areas. It may, however, become necessary or expedient to enter into contract for the supply of stores and materials or the construction of bridges or ancillary buildings such as offices, workshop etc. or for transporting men and materials. In all such cases, contract is concluded by Chief Engineers or Superintending Engineers in accordance with rules prescribed.

4. From information available, it appears that contracts for supplies etc. have been entered into only with Indian nationals. I may add that no foreign nationals can enter the NEFA area, where the works are in progress, without obtaining a permit from the NEFA Administration.

5. No report of failure on the part of the Chief Engineer's Organisation to perform the tasks assigned to them during the Chinese invasion of NEFA has been received so far, but, shortly after the 20th November 1962, some complaints regarding behaviour and conduct of the personnel employed under Chief Engineer, Project Tusker came to the notice of Government. The main allegations against them are:—

- (i) These personnel fled from the project sites and behaved in a panicky way. This demoralised the civilians;
- (ii) There was considerable destruction of machinery and equipment. This was not justified. Some stores were "looted";