

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have said definitely about this matter.

“RETREAT” FOR MINISTERS

\*771. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government propose to build a “Retreat” for the Union Ministers at Dasna 40 miles from Delhi on Delhi-Moradabad Road?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** No, Sir.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** May we know why not?

“BAMBOOCRETE”

\*773. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement of Dr. S. Kamesam, a Wood preservative Expert and Timber Engineer published in the *Times of India*, Bombay, dated the 13th January, 1953 on page 9, regarding providing low cost rural housing;

(b) whether Government are aware that Dr. Kamesam claims that if his method of constructing houses with bamboo called “Bamboocrete” was tried, it would solve the housing problem on account of the low cost, facility of quick manufacture and erection by the villager himself with the aid of the simplest of tools;

(c) whether Government are aware that Dr. Kamesam also claims that he has perfected a method of treating timber which has been recognised in Europe and the United States and that such treated timber can be utilised for typical engineering structures, such as bridges, factories, railway stations and aircraft hangars in place of steel; and

(d) whether Government propose to get Dr. Kamesam’s method of “Bamboocrete” and treatment of timber examined by other experts?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government are aware that such claims have been made.

(d) Government would do so if Dr. Kamesam is prepared to supply to the experts the necessary detailed information about his process.

**Shri Gidwani:** Have Government invited the opinion of Dr. Kamesam in regard to this matter?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** He has to approach Government not we to approach him.

**Shri Gidwani:** When we import so many foreign experts, why can’t Government invite his advice?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Opinions might differ. We have not imported any expert on the type of work which Dr. Kamesam claims he can do.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know, Sir, whether Government have made any enquiries about the claims made by Dr. Kamesam and the actual results obtained by him, especially when he was the Timber Technologist to the Government of Travancore-Cochin?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** We have made enquiries and the opinions on that are not quite uniform.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know, Sir, whether Government have enquired into the cause of terminating the services of Dr. Kamesam from the Travancore-Cochin service?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** No, Sir.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, how far our Forest Research Institute has advanced in the treatment of timber and bamboo?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I do not know, Sir, what the hon. Member wants me to state; but I can say in a general manner that they have done good work on that.

**Shri Matthen:** Is the hon. the Minister aware of any process patented by one Dr. John Thottam which claims about 40 per cent. saving in concrete?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Yes, Sir. Government are aware of that process; but the detailed investigation that has been made does not hold out good hopes about its success.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware of the experiments conducted by Dr. Kamesam and constructions made by him in Travancore-Cochin while he was Director of Development Department in Travancore-Cochin and their results?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Some of the works are known to the Government.