

could remain vacant, because a person will get a loan and he will be putting up a house of his own. I cannot imagine any house lying vacant under this Scheme.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: It has been said that out of Rs. 6 crores only Rs. 2 crores have been spent. May I know whether this low spending is a result of the defective machinery for giving loans or otherwise?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No, Sir. Actually, the disbursement has to be phased with the progress made in construction and that really acts as a lever and an incentive for people to go ahead with their construction.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether it is a fact that these houses are constructed mostly in urban areas and that rural areas are disregarded?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is a fact that a major part of this loan has been advanced to prospective builders in urban areas. The State Governments came to the conclusion that the housing position in urban areas is more acute as compared to that in the rural areas. Therefore, they considered more sympathetically the applicants for loans from urban areas.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the lower grade clerks and the *chaprassis* employed in the Central Government here were included in the Lower Income Housing Scheme and whether money required as loan is disbursed to them?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The Central Government employees can also take advantage of advances on terms which are not less favourable as compared to others.

Goa

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 { **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
 *1277. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
Sardar Akarpuri:
Shri Kamath:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2080 on the 12th September 1956 relating to the Government of Portugal's refusal to afford facilities to the Egyptian Embassy in India to look after Indian interests in Portuguese possessions in India and state whether a reply has since been received from the Government of Portugal to India's communication in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Yes. The Government of India has received a communication dated the 3rd December, 1956 from the Embassy of Brazil, New Delhi conveying the Portuguese Government's

willingness to give facilities to a representative of the Egyptian Embassy, New Delhi to visit the Portuguese Possessions in India.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know how, in the absence of facilities, the Indian interests were looked after so far?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have no representatives in the Portuguese possessions, but there is a Christian missionary, Father Carreno, who generally looks after the welfare of the prisoners in Goa.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how early will these facilities be used by the Indian Government?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: In the month of February, the First Secretary of the Egyptian Legation had visited Goa. After that, we had tried to arrange for another visit, but permission has been granted only recently.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that early this year, after the Portuguese Government had refused facilities for the Egyptian Embassy to visit Goa to see the Indian prisoners in Goa, the Government approached the International Red Cross to go and report about the welfare of the prisoners, and that after they had declined to do so—there was some difficulty for them in doing so—the Government asked the Indian Red Cross to depute some officers to Goa and report on the welfare of the prisoners and, if so, have they reported, and what is the gist of the report?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There has been some communication between the Indian Red Cross and the International Red Cross at Geneva and the Portuguese Red Cross.

Shri Kamath: What is the report of the Indian Red Cross?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I believe there is still correspondence going on between those agencies.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Government have received any information with regard to a distinguished Member of this House, Shri T.K. Chaudhuri,—about this condition in the Goa Jails?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There have been several questions about Shri T. K. Chaudhuri and we have given to the House all the information that we have about him.

Displaced Persons Townships and Colonies

*1280. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been finalised for the promotion of medium-