

Estate Office

1057. **Shri D. C. Sharma** : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether O & M procedure introduced by the Government of India has also been enforced in the Estate Office;

(b) if so, with what results;

(c) whether any re-adjustments have been made in the working and maintenance of records; and

(d) if so, whether a report on the working of the O & M Unit in the Estate Office will be laid on the Table of the Sabha?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) :

(a) Yes; Sir. O & M procedure has been introduced on the allotment side of the Estate Office.

(b) The O & M Unit was set up in full strength only about a couple of months ago, and it is too early to assess its achievements.

(c) A proposal for the weeding out of old records etc., is under examination of the O & M Unit of the Estate Office.

(d) The report when ready can be shown to the Hon'ble Member if he expresses a desire to that effect but it does not seem necessary that a copy be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Estate Office

1058. **Shri D. C. Sharma** : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the records in the Estate Office relating to allotment of quarters, realisation and adjustments of rents etc. are not being maintained in a proper manner; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposed to take to improve matters?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) :

(a) No, Sir. The records are being properly maintained.

(b) Does not arise.

Quarters in Gole Market

1059. **Shri D. C. Sharma** : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1707 on 12th September, 1956 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that rain water continued to enter the residential

quarters in Gole Market area during the recent rains in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what positive preventive measures are proposed to be taken;

(c) how the question of re-building the quarters stands at present; and

(d) when a final decision is likely to be arrived at?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) :

(a) Yes, Sir. Due to excessive rains the water did enter in some quarters on Market Road which are situated on a low laying area.

(b) Improving drainage and providing necessary masonry dwarf walls in the exterior openings to act as barriers.

(c) and (d). The question is still under examination and is likely to take some time before final decision is taken.

Collieries in Raniganj

1060. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh** :
Shri S. C. Samanta :
Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha :
Shri Asthana :
Babu Ramnarayan Singh :

Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an advancing under-ground fire on both sides of the Jotimotook branch line of the Eastern Railway is threatening to engulf about a dozen Collieries in Raniganj;

(b) if so, when did this fire break out and how; and

(c) the steps so far taken to extinguish the fire?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) :

(a) Although there are some dormant and active under ground fires in the Raniganj coal fields none of them is at present threatening to engulf any colliery in that area.

(b) The fire on both sides of the Jotimotook branch line is an old fire which broke out about 20 years ago. Its origin and history are not known at this distance of time.

(c) it is not always possible to completely extinguish a colliery fire and it has usually to be sealed off Blanketing operations and flooding underground are carried out to prevent extension of such fires. In addition to carrying out certain protective works directly, the Coal Board grants financial assistance to collieries for measures taken to tackle such fires.