

## Industrial Housing

\*654. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the position with regard to the provision of housing accommodation under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Schemes to industrial workers employed in Government undertakings in public sector?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (**Shri P. S. Naskar**): The Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme provides primarily for grant of financial assistance for industrial workers in the private sector. However, industrial workers employed in such Central or State Governments undertakings as are liable to income-tax on the whole or part of their earnings, are also eligible for aid under the Scheme. Other Government undertakings have their own separate housing schemes as a part of the Project concerned.

Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 42.21 lakhs (Rs. 16.50 lakhs as loan and Rs. 25.71 lakhs as subsidy) for the construction of 3,232 tenements was sanctioned in favour of such undertakings upto the 22nd November, 1956, as against the total financial assistance of Rs. 23.68 crores (Rs. 12.28 crores as loan and Rs. 11.40 crores as subsidy) sanctioned for 85,266 tenements under the Scheme up to that date, since the Scheme came into force in September, 1952.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know whether there is any phased programme for meeting the growing need of accommodation in respect of industrial workers in the public sector so as to complete the housing accommodation for them in time?

**Shri P. S. Naskar:** Yes, Sir; we have. As I said in my original answer, industrial undertakings in the public sector who pay income-tax or other taxes on their earnings are eligible under this scheme. Other Government undertakings have their own separate housing schemes as a part of the project concerned. In the private sector, as I said in my original answer, we have already sanctioned Rs. 23 crores.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** What is the percentage of houses for industrial workers in the public sector that have been or are being built through co-operative societies, and what is the percentage of houses that are being built by the workers or labourers themselves?

**Shri P. S. Naskar:** So far as industrial workers as are eligible under this scheme for housing accommodation are concerned, I am not able to give the break-up of houses built by co-operative societies etc. I require notice for that.

## Import and Export Trade of India

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 { **Shri Kajrolkar :**  
**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao :**  
**Shri Sadhan Gupta:**  
 \*656. { **Shri Gadilingana Gowd:**  
**Shri Sanganna:**  
**Dr. Rama Rao :**  
**Shri Mohana Rao :**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the import and export trade of the country has been affected by the Suez Canal crisis;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to see that the programme of the Second Five Year Plan is not adversely affected by the temporary closing of the Suez Canal;

(c) whether Government have under consideration any revision of the targets set in the Second Five Year Plan in the light of the international situation affecting the Suez Canal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Trade (**Shri Karmarkar**): (a) A precise assessment is not possible at this stage. Some delays in arrivals and shipments and an increase in the freight bill are, however, inevitable.

(b) to (d). If, as may be hoped, the closure of the Suez Canal is not unduly prolonged, it may not be necessary to revise the targets set in the Second Five Year Plan. It is too soon, however, to express any final opinion on the subject. Government are, however, endeavouring to secure that available shipping space is utilised to the best possible purpose.

**Shri Kajrolkar:** Do Government consider the feasibility of diverting the imports and exports *via* Cape of Good Hope until the Canal is cleared and conditions restored to normalcy, and if so, what would be the extra charges that we have to bear?

**Shri Karmarkar:** There is no question of feasibility, with very great respect I should like to say. The only other alternative is to take the longer route and pay higher freight charges. On the longer route the cost of export to foreign countries is likely to go up by Rs. 24 crores; that is about 6 per cent. The total cost of imports would rise by about 5½ per cent.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** In view of the fact that the normal trade channels and normal supply channels for the Eastern and South-East Asian countries have been closed because of the blockade of the Suez Canal, may I know

whether Indian business has taken advantage of the Eastern and South-Eastern markets, and if so, how far?

**Shri Karmarkar:** By raising prices? I should like to have a little more clarification.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Not by raising prices. My question was whether, in view of the fact that normal supplies to Eastern and South-East Asian countries have been disturbed by the blockade of the Suez Canal—as those countries were importing their goods from the European market—the Indian business has taken advantage of the closure of the Suez Canal supply channel.

**Shri Karmarkar:** I have tried to understand the question and my reply is two-fold. Firstly, so far as our imports are concerned . . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** She is not talking of imports. She wants to find out whether there are certain other countries who were importing their goods from those in the West and, now that they are not getting goods from that side, whether we can explore those countries for our commodities.

**Shri Karmarkar:** Now I understand the question fully well. I think the answer is very simple. Our businessmen are quite as competent as any other businessmen. They will seek all opportunities for taking advantage of any situation that arises like this.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi:** What is the extra time required for ships to come by the Cape of Good Hope route, and what would be the shortage in shippings as a result of the increased length?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That would be difficult to give.

**Shri Karmarkar:** My colleague, the Minister for Communications, prompts me to say 9 to 21 days. I shall consult the time-tables and give the necessary reply.

**Sri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if any difficulty has been felt so far in the arrivals of heavy machinery and other kinds of mechanical equipments that are needed for the completion of our programme in connection with the Second Five Year plan?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I hope my friend wants to know regarding the actual delay till the canal was actually blocked. There was no sizable delay so far as our exports and imports were concerned. For instance, except in two cases where two ships of Messrs. India Steam Ship Co. Ltd., Calcutta were delayed for over 24 hours on the 16th and 26th October, 1956, prior to the blocking of the Canal there was no notice-

able delay so far as our goods were concerned.

It is too early to say now what will happen if the closure continues for a very long time.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** What is the effect of closure of the canal on the export of refined oil and crude oil?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Subject to correction, I do not think we export much of refined oil to the West. But, I shall find out.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** In view of the recent statement of the acting Prime Minister of U.K., Mr. R.A. Butler, that the British armies will not be completely evacuated from Egypt, do Government have any plans to organise imports from other sources?

**Shri Karmarkar:** This is a non-commercial question; with great respect I say it should be addressed to political parties.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is, if the Suez Canal is not opened for some more time, shall we have other sources? This was answered in reply to another question.

**Shri Karmarkar:** I accept your suggestion. If something happens, something else is bound to happen. I would like to indicate that it is too early to say anything now. In answer to another supplementary, I have said that if the canal continues to be blocked for a certain period of time, whatever the reasons may be, whether it is evacuation or non-evacuation of the armies or anything else, or if any other situation develops we shall have to consider that position. At the moment it is too early to envisage what might happen if something else happens.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Apart from the hon. Minister's high appreciation for the Indian businessmen.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** She may put the question straightaway.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** What specific steps have been taken by the Indian business section to find out export markets in the South-East Asian countries since the blockade of the Suez Canal?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Would that be the responsibility of the Indian Government?

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I beg to differ from the hon. Member. Therefore, that question need not be answered.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** I would like to know what specific steps . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member could not enter into arguments. Next question.

### Madras Corporation Proposals

\*648. **Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madras Corporation has made proposals through the State Government for:

- (1) Slum Improvement,
- (2) Housing Scheme for pavement dwellers,
- (3) Water Supply,
- (4) Drainage, and
- (5) Subsidized Industrial Housing Schemes; and

(b) what action Government is taking thereupon?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar):** (a) Proposals have been received in respect of Slum-improvement and housing of pavement dwellers only.

(b) The matter was discussed by the Housing Adviser to the Government of India with the Corporation authorities at Madras in August, 1956, with a view to formulate proposals in conformity with the Central Slum-clearance Scheme. The proposals of the Corporation were to be revised in accordance with these discussions. The revised proposals are awaited.

**Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** May I know what is the total amount demanded by the Madras Corporation for implementing their proposals for slum improvement etc. ?

**Shri P. S. Naskar:** The total demand of the Corporation is approximately Rs. 200 lakhs. . . . .

**Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** Are Government aware that unless these requirements of the Corporation are fulfilled, the capacity of the city to undertake other developmental work will suffer very much?

**Shri P. S. Naskar:** Slum clearance is essentially a State subject. The Central Government has a slum clearance scheme and under that scheme the provision for the second Five Year Plan period is about Rs. 15 crores. It is not possible at this stage to indicate how much money would be given to the Madras Corporation through the State Government for their schemes.

**Shri V. P. Nayar :** The hon. Parliamentary Secretary said that schemes have been received for slum improvement and housing of pavement dwellers. I would like to know whether in the proposals submitted by the Madras Corporation there are any precise indications as to the number of slums to be cleared and the number of pavement dwellers who are expected to be provided with houses.

**Shri P. S. Naskar:** Yes, Sir; In the slum improvement proposals of the Corporation, they say that the number of slums to be cleared is 67 and the number of families of pavement dwellers to be rehoused is about 2,000.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether after the announcement of the Government scheme for slum clearance, evacuations are taking place in the slum areas in many places? What steps have Government taken to prevent this evacuation?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That has been already answered; it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** May I know if the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply give loans to State Governments for slum improvement, drainage and other works, in addition to the Ministry of Health?

**Shri P. S. Naskar:** The Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply administer the slum clearance.

**Shri Veeraswamy:** May I know the number of slums which existed before the first Five Year Plan, the number of slums cleared or improved during the first Plan period and the number of slums to be cleared under the second Five Year Plan? I want to know whether Government is very serious about the clearance of slums or not.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Whether they are earnest about it etc. have already been given perhaps in the documents contained in the second Five Year Plan. I do not know whether the Parliamentary Secretary can answer all these points now.

**Shri P. S. Naskar:** It is a big question. The details about the number of slums are not available with me at the moment. But, I may submit that it was not possible to do anything tangible during the first Five Year Plan, because of the competing claims of other developmental schemes on the limited resources that were available.

श्रीमती कमलेश्वरिणी झाह : दिल्ली में स्लम को हटाने के बारे में और क्या क्या स्टेपस लिए गए हैं, क्या मैं जान सकती हूँ ?