

Shri Ranga: What was the price that was charged for each acre of land that was allotted to these people?

Shri P. S. Naskar: I have not got the figure of the exact value of the land with me now. But the price of the land varies from one tehsil to another. Even in the same tehsil, the price of the land varies according to the quality of the land. I have not got a flat rate for them.

Shri Tyagi: They may find non-Harijans who on account of poverty may not be able to pay. Will they be treated at par with Harijans? Or will a distinction be made?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is not the objective of this question.

Shri Tyagi: There are others also. I want to know whether all of them will be treated at par.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, that would be outside the scope of this question.

Shri Tyagi: It includes Harijans and non-Harijans, both.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Would others be treated at par with these Harijans? I disallow that question. But if the Minister is prepared to answer, he may.

Shri P. S. Naskar: The very question refers to some 200 Harijans and some non-Harijans refugees.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are Harijans and non-Harijans treated on par?

Shri P. S. Naskar: This is for the refugees. This is not a Ministry for Harijans alone. This has been considered.

Shri D. C. Sharma: This problem is confined not only to Ganga Nagar but is one which we find in every State.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But the question is confined to Ganga Nagar.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Minister will take this problem in all its aspects in all the States of India into consideration and arrive at a

comprehensive solution thereof, because it affects every State? Punjab and every other State?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Collapse of Scaffolding at A.I.R. Building, New Delhi

+

*1192. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scaffolding supporting the new structure of the All India Radio building fell down on the 16th March, 1961;

(b) if so, the causes of the same; and

(c) the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cause of the accident is under investigation.

(c) While connecting end-beams of the roof of the auditorium stage, the structure erected to support the roof slab collapsed. Four persons were injured three of whom were released from the hospital after first aid. The condition of the fourth is reported to be out of danger.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if this is the first accident of its kind in Delhi or some other accident like this had taken place before? If so, what precautions has the Ministry taken to avoid accidents of this kind?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I do not think I can go into the past history of all the constructions in Delhi, but so far I remember, during the last four years I have not had such an example of an accident before.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know, Sir....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri D. C. Sharma. He should not look behind. He should look forward.

Shri D. C. Sharma: My hon. friend behind started asking a question and I was listening to his siren voice.

May I know if the Ministry has laid down any procedure and any scale of compensation to be paid to the workers when they meet with an accident of this kind?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There is the law covering this, the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Shri Joachim Alva: We had trouble in the basement of Krishi Bhavan; we had trouble with this building....

Shri Anil K. Chanda: What does he mean by 'trouble'? I do not understand.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He will just disclose it

Shri Joachim Alva: We had trouble with the basement of the Krishi Bhavan and we had trouble with this building. We have spent crores of rupees for erecting these mighty structures. At the same time, there are other buildings....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Speeches and arguments are not allowed. He may put the question straight.

Shri Joachim Alva: At the same time, foreign Embassies here have put up first-class structures....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Then I presume he has no question to put.

Shri Joachim Alva: I want to ask the hon. Minister why is that we have trouble with our structures. Is it because our architects are of inferior ability or that our contractors are dishonest?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: So far as the Krishi Bhavan was concerned, the basement was flooded during the unusual floods of, I think, 1958. So far as this is concerned, this building is

2402 (A) LSD—2.

under construction. If there has been a loss, it will be incurred by the contractor. We suffer only to the extent that the work might have been retarded by about a fortnight or so.

So far as the constructions are concerned, I think our buildings are very solid and they compare very well with the foreign Embassy buildings.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: May I know whether this work was undertaken by some private contractor or by the CPWD?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is a contractor's work.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In view of the fact that recently the buildings which are being constructed in Delhi are going up like a skyscraper, what positive steps are being taken to ensure the safety of those who work under the contractors, and whether these poor workers are going to be paid compensation or not?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I do not understand this. This is a solitary instance. It is an honest accident, if I may say so. So far as the workers are concerned, they will get financial benefit under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question has been misunderstood.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is because he enters into an argument while asking questions. What has a skyscraper got to do with this? He should directly put the question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This has been endangering the life of workers. So I wanted to know what safety measures are evolved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has he any further question to put?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether adequate safety measures will be taken. I say this because I visited the place and the building under construction. In the scaffolding, bamboos have been used, which crashed

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is not a skyscraper. The work of concreting of a roof was going on. Such an accident might happen even in a one-storey building. This is just an auditorium in the AIR building.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Why bamboos were used and not timber?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: No. bamboos were used; they were timber ballis.

Transfer of C.P.W.D. Staff

*1194. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that workers of the Central Public Works Department were transferred to the Rajasthan Public Works Department along with the works;

(b) whether it is a fact that many of these workers were transferred back to the Central Public Works Department;

(c) whether all such workers re-transferred to the Central Public Works Department have been paid arrears of interim relief granted with effect from July, 1957; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Shri Tangamani: May I know how many workers were transferred, in the first instance, to Rajasthan, and how many were re-transferred back to C.P.W.D., Delhi?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Certain works were transferred to the Rajasthan Government under the provisions of the States Reorganisation Act. Along with the works, all the work-charged people were also transferred to the Rajasthan Government. But it so happened that the scale of salaries of our people

are higher than that of the Rajasthan officers, and they found it difficult to absorb these people. So they returned these personnel back to us. We took back only the permanent and the quasi-permanent and I think the number is about 130 or 134.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether these 134 workers who have been re-transferred and who are entitled to the interim relief under the CPC will get that interim relief now?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, Sir. They are entitled to it. As a matter of fact, the Rajasthan Government has already asked us to pay on its behalf and adjustments will be made later on.

Shri Tangamani: May I know what is their status now regarding seniority and other things?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am afraid I cannot go into the details. But I should think that the temporary transfer they had to Rajasthan would not affect their interests.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The questions are over. Is there any other hon. Member who wants his question to be taken up?

Shri Raghunath Singh: For the first time the questions have been finished.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Question No. 1177, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes.

Backward Areas

*1177. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the term "backward areas" has been officially defined by the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, what is the definition?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). The Working Group on Problems of Regional Development is currently