

**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

engaged in the study of problems relating to backward areas and regional development, including the determination of criteria of backwardness and identification of backward areas.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** A few days back the hon. Minister, replying to a question, said that they have requested the States to map out their own backward areas and make special arrangements therefor. May I know if this matter of backward areas has been left to the States for ever or whether the States are going to be bound by the definition prepared by the Central Government?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That was sufficiently discussed here. That has been answered.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** May I know whether any terms of reference have been prepared for the working group which is going to determine this definition of backward areas?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** Obviously, questions relating to indices of the levels of living and development in those areas constitute the terms of reference—if we may call them terms of reference.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Great concern was shown here when several hon. Members but questions whether the Central Government thinks it necessary to lay down certain criteria on which that determination might be made or whether it would leave it to the State Governments to do as they like, in which case the criteria in every State might be different.

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** For the guidance of all concerned, this Study Group is working on evolving a definition of and the criteria for backwardness which may be useful for the demarcation of the backward areas.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** There is obviously a discrepancy between what the hon. Minister said and what

the Deputy Minister says. On 24th March, the Minister said that various criteria have been developed and are being developed. I want to know which criteria have been developed and on which they are working.

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** What the hon. Minister said that day was that for the purposes of the Third Five Year Plan he had asked the States to indicate the areas for which allocations have to be made. We have certainly something to go by. It is not as if we are working in a vacuum. Since we did not want the work to stop so far as the formulation of the Third Five Year Plan was concerned, we have asked them to go on the basis of the available data and do something.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** From the answer given by the hon. Minister I find that to this day they do not know what backward areas are there in this country. May I know how they were functioning during the First and Second Plans and whether they have any criteria to give any incentive? Have they done anything for the backward areas during the First and Second Five Year Plans?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** The assumption is not correct at all. We have already indicated earlier that we go by certain criteria, namely, the per capita income, the per capita consumption, the state of communications, the relationship between population and employment opportunities and the utilisation of productive resources and all that. To the extent we have got data about them, we are trying to utilise them.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** For the First and Second Five Year Plans which were the areas which they considered to be backward and which were treated as such?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** It will be difficult for me to lay the entire map just now.

**Shri Pahadia:** May I know whether any special provision has been made for the development of these areas; and, if so, what is the amount?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** I made it clear that we have requested the State Governments to indicate to the Planning Commission the definite provision made for the Backward areas and we are awaiting from them information in this respect.

**Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** May I know which State has the lowest per capita income in India?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** I could not hear the question.

**Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** It was said that during the First and Second Plans one of the criteria to determine the backwardness was the per capita income. May I know which State has got the lowest per capita income?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** All these things are being considered by the Study Group. I would not like the House to be confronted with *kaccha* figures. We do have a certain idea about this; but it would not be fair to the House to give that kind of thing.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** Sir, question No. 1196 regarding Russian Atlases may be answered. It is an important question. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is the hon. Minister prepared to answer? Even if the hon. Member is absent, if the hon. Minister desires to answer it, he may do so.

**Shri Sadath Ali Khan:** It all depends upon whether you ask me to answer. If you ask I will answer it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is why I have asked him. I cannot compel him. The hon. Member is not present.

**Shri Sadath Ali Khan:** When the hon. Member is not present I do not want to answer.

**Shri Tyagi:** Shall I take it that the Minister is withdrawing his consent to reply?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** So, it appears.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Sir, question No. 1182 may be answered.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That also will depend upon the willingness of the Minister.

They are not prepared to answer further questions. We will take up the Calling Attention notice.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Sir, I have a submission to make. While answering the question regarding the backward areas, we find that only evasive answers have been given. We have always been trying to get some information from the hon. Minister; but we have never been able to get better replies. The hon. Minister says that he could not go into details. Because of that, will he lay a statement on the Table of the House indicating all the details, the areas which they have considered for special incentive and special treatment as backward areas during the First and Second Five Year Plans?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** When we get the information from the States and also from the Study Group which we have constituted.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** As soon as the facts are available a statement may be laid on the Table of the House. (*Interruption*). Order, order.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** I am not talking of the future. I am asking about the areas which the Central Government has treated as backward during the First and the Second Five Year Plans. I only want details of that.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That will be given.