

Wrist Watches

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*5. { Shri E. Madhusudan Rao;
Shri Rameshwar Tantia;
Shri Subodh Hanada;
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) when the wrist watches manufactured by H.M.T. at Bangalore will be made available for the general public; and

(b) the cost of these watches in the open market?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The question will be answered by the Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries on a later date.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: After all, notice was given. There was a controversy in this House about this.

Mr. Speaker: I think we ought not to enter into those arguments now. They have discussed so many times. When the question comes up, supplementaries can be put. It is going to be answered in a day or two very soon.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Members are not informed. When such a situation arose, when the previous Speaker, Shri M. A. Ayyangar was in the Chair, it was agreed that we should be informed.

Mr. Speaker: That objection has already been taken sometime earlier as well. When a question has been put to one particular Minister, and when he feels that it ought to be more appropriately addressed to another Ministry, the question is sent to the other Ministry. The Hon. Member also must get the information to that effect so that he may not be under the impression that the answer is going to be given on the day. So it is fair and proper that an attempt should be made to see that the information is

sent to the hon. Member as well. That will be done. I will see to it.

Accommodation for Government Employees

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*6. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia;
Shri Shree Narayan Das;
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there are sixty-two thousand Government employees who are entitled to Government accommodation but who have not been allotted Government quarters;

(b) whether it is also a fact that fifty per cent of such Government employees have completed ten years of their service;

(c) if so, the category-wise details thereof; and

(d) the prospects of their getting the Government accommodation?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Yes, Sir. This is the position in the general pool at Delhi and New Delhi.

(b) and (c) Their exact number is not known.

(d) About 4,000 quarters will be added to the pool this year. Construction of another 3,000 units has also been taken up. This will improve the prospects of allotment to persons who have put in long years of service.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Is it a fact that some government employees have to come from places as far as Sonapat and other places, and if that is so, may I know whether the Government will consider giving them priority in the matter of allotment and in what way the new buildings will be allotted?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: We are short of accommodation in Delhi to the extent of 60000 units. It is quite

likely that some of the government servants may be coming from long distances, but every one of them is getting house rent allowance.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is it, Sir, a fact that even where government employees have been provided accommodation in, for instance, government hostels, these government employees have in an emergency been served with notices to quit or vacate their accommodation whereas those persons, residents, who are not entitled to accommodation in other hostels are allowed to continue in occupation indefinitely?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The hon. Member presumably is referring to some individual case.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Not individual; all.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: If any particular case is brought to my notice, I shall certainly look into it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that about 3000 quarters in Ramakrishnapuram, a new colony, are lying unallotted for the last three years; if so, the reasons why the allotment is being delayed?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: We undertook construction of about 4000 quarters in Ramakrishnapuram about two or three years ago. 25 per cent of this, about 1000 quarters, were completed by 1960; another 50 per cent—about 2000 quarters—were completed by 1961 and the remaining 1000 quarters within the last three months. The main difficulty has been the provision of civic amenities like electricity, water supply and sewerage. I can assure the House that I am looking into the matter and I will take it up with the Corporation and other authorities to see that allotments are made as expeditiously as possible.

Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that a number of government employees staying in the Constitution House were asked to leave within 24 hours?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have no idea.

Shri Nambiar: In view of the fact that there is a serious shortage of quarters for government employees, they may be encouraged to construct houses on a co-operative basis help being rendered by the Government in the matter of material, place etc.

Mr. Speaker: A good suggestion for action.

Shri Nambiar: No, Sir, there is a housing scheme. The Government are bound to do that. I want to know whether they are doing it or not.

Mr. Speaker: A suggestion has been made for action. I have said that it is a very good suggestion, but that has to be considered by the Government.

Shri Nambiar: It is not only a suggestion. There is a programme and the Government are bound to do it. I want to know whether they are doing it or not. Let us hear the answer.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The Speaker has already given answer.

Shri Nath Pai: May I know from the hon. Minister whether within the house rent allowance that is being made available to the employees accommodation is really available; if so, because the allowance is between Rs. 10 to Rs. 18, where and whether they will help the government employees in finding out accommodation within that allowance?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The house rent allowance varies according to the pay scale. With my own personal knowledge I can say that it is not easy to find accommodation at that rate in Delhi, but I am only telling the House that within the resources available every possible effort shall be made to construct more houses. But my difficulty does not end there. My difficulty is water, electricity and sewerage. If I cannot draw water from the Yamuna in sufficient quantities, I am afraid, I cannot do much in that direction.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: What about the Government of India employees stationed outside and who have not yet been provided accommodation?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I can assure the House that the Government has as much sympathy, for the Government servants as anybody else in this House.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: In reply to parts (b) and (c) of the question, the hon. Minister has stated that the Government have not such information to determine as to how many Government servants will need accommodation to be provided by the Government. If that information is not available with them, will Government please prepare such information so that they know as to how much of accommodation is needed by the Government servants to be provided by the Government?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have already answered the question fully. We are short of about 60,000 units. The break-up is: Class IV 8,700 officers drawing less than Rs. 500 about 50,000 and officers drawing above Rs. 500 about 3,700.

Indians in Burma

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*7. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India is aware of the new order of the Burma Government asking the foreigners including a large number of Indians living in Burma to declare their allegiance and loyalty either to Burma or to the countries of their origin; and

(b) if so, how this order is going to affect people of Indian origin who were born and are living there since World War II and neither possess passports nor foreigners' registration certificates?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) The Government of India have seen a press report to this effect; but they have no information that this represents the official policy of the Government of Burma.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बर्मा में रहने वाले ऐसे कितने हिन्दुस्तानी हैं जो कि वहाँ पर पैदा हुए थे, लेकिन जिनको अभी तक नागरिकता के अधिकार प्राप्त नहीं हुए हैं? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि उनके सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्रवाई होगी?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There are altogether about 550,000 persons of Indian origin in Burma, of whom about 1,80,000 have Indian passports. About 1,00,000 will be eligible for Burmese citizenship. This will leave a balance of about 2,70,000 persons who eventually will have to be registered as Indian citizens.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: तकरीबन पांच दू: लाख हिन्दुस्तानियों की एप्लीके:शन्स सिटिजनशिप के वास्ते बर्मा में कभी भी पड़ी हुई हैं। क्या सबब है कि बीस पच्चीस साल गुजर जाने के बाद भी इनको अभी तक नागरिकता के अधिकार वहाँ नहीं दिए गए हैं? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि उनके सम्बन्ध में क्या का आई हो रही है?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: This question has been answered in this House before also. One reason is when these people were asked to apply for Burmese citizenship, they did not, either because they were ignorant or because they did not care to have Burmese citizenship. Hence we have this difficulty.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: The hon. Minister has stated that the subject matter of the question has been seen by the Government in some paper. I would like to know whether any enquiry has been made at the diplomatic