

**Marble Flooring in M.P.s Bungalows**

**Q218. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of M.P.s Bungalows in which marble flooring was done in 1958-59;

(b) whether work was done departmentally or through contractors;

(c) cost of marble flooring per bungalow;

(d) whether the work was checked up when reflooring work was going on; and

(e) whether the work was done according to specification?

The Minister of Works, Housing & Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) to (e). No 'marble flooring' was done in any of the MP bungalows during 1958-59. Mosaic flooring was, however, taken up in some bungalows.

Due to normal wear and tear in several M.P. bungalows, the floors needed replacement/renewal and as such, during 1958-59, the flooring of 30 bungalows was renewed by mosaic floor (using marble chips) A statement, showing the bungalows where mosaic flooring was done and the cost of the work in each house, is laid on the Tab'le of the Sabha [See Appendix VIII, annexure No 67] The cost of the work carried out in each bungalow is different, as the number of rooms in each bungalow, where reflooring was done, was different.

2. The work in question was awarded on contract after call of competitive tenders. While the work was in progress, it was frequently inspected by the Central Public Works Department officers and found to be done according to the specification, except in the case of one bungalow (No. 7, Canning Lane). No payment was made to the contractor for a part of the work in that case.

3. No complaint has so far been received about the quality of reflooring done in the bungalows. There were a few demands for polishing of the floors from some of the M.P.s and these were attended to by the Central P.W.D.

12 hrs.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT**

**WATER SHORTAGE IN DELHI**

Mr. Speaker: There is an adjournment motion which has been standing over since yesterday. The hon. Minister of Health.

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): Sir, the Ministry of Health have received the following further information from Shri R. S. Mehta, Chief Engineer, Delhi Municipal Corporation I am reading his statement.

"The scarcity of water experienced in certain parts of the city during the last two or three days is an annual feature and not the result of a deficiency of water in the river or in the pumping arrangements at Wazirabad. The difficulty has arisen because of a suddenly increased demand and the consequent drop in the pressure in the mains. That has been an annual feature in the months of May and June during the last 7 or 8 years. In view of this difficulty we have found it necessary to stop water supply between the hours of 10 P.M. and 4.30 A.M. so as to keep better pressure during the other supply hours, as in previous years

As a result of the hot weather conditions the demand for water increased by 15 to 20 per cent result of this increased demand is that in the morning from 6 A.M. to 9 a.m. and in the evening from 5 to 8 p.m., the hours of peak demand, adequate pressure cannot be maintained in the mains and the water is not able to rise

[Shri Karmarkar]

to upper storeys. This is not a new situation and no factor is operating which is of an unusual character.

The pumping at Wazirabad on the 6th and 7th May was 63 million gallons of water per day. There is no significant change in that availability. What had happened is the result of hot weather conditions. The Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Committee of the Corporation, which is dealing with this question, is having a discussion on the question in the next two or three days. In the light of that discussion all possible steps would be taken which would ensure better pressure during peak hours."

This is the statement that I have now received from the Chief Engineer.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): The hon. Minister said that there is nothing unusual this year and during summer this scarcity is always there. When the Minister knew or the officers knew that during summer such scarcity is there, why did they not make arrangements for curtailing the supply of water during 10 P.M. to 4 A.M. even before so that this scarcity would not have been experienced by the people?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is making a suggestion that between 10 P.M. and 4 A.M. water supply should be cut off and water conserved for use during the day.

Shri Karmarkar: I asked for this piece of information and I was told that they had recourse to this restraint in the supply of water when the occasion arose. Earlier, there was no occasion. So, when the occasion now arose of greater pressure, they have taken recourse to this.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I ask for an assurance from the hon. Minister

that the things that were witnessed last year are not going to be repeated this time?

Mr. Speaker: The statements made yesterday and today by the hon. Minister seem to be rather unusual. He has been saying: 'I have received some information from my subordinates' I do not know whose subordinates they are. He does not proceed further. That is rather unusual. The Minister must have said: 'I have taken steps and I am doing this'.

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I am not entitled to say this and it would be an incorrect position. The Corporation set up by a statute passed by Parliament is an autonomous body. So far as its administration is concerned, it is functioning under the Home Ministry. We are in charge of this question so far as health conditions are concerned. Now, I am not in a position to say: 'I shall do this or my Ministry will do this', because it is for the Corporation to act. And, if the Corporation is remiss in its duties, then, under the powers vested in law, the Government of India comes into the picture. That is the position as it is at present.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Last year there was a motion admitted by you and the Deputy Minister of Law was asked to enquire into the whole matter. He has given a report. Then, the Government was responsible. Now, today they say they are not responsible. How is it? The Corporation was there last year also.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The issue is perfectly clear. Certainly, this House should know that there is an autonomous Corporation functioning in Delhi city. It, certainly, is not independent of Government; and where some major trouble occurs, Government comes in.

The hon. Member refers to the enquiry of last year. Of course, it was

at the instance of the Mayor herself, that the Home Ministry requested the Deputy Minister to make the enquiry, it was a joint effort. But one must realise that the Minister here cannot directly intervene. We can advise; we can help. Our real intervention would come in when we put it aside and take charge.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): My submission is this. For the last so many years this problem has been a serious problem in Delhi. Some permanent arrangement has to be made. Unfortunately, Delhi has the Lok Sabha and a Corporation. That does not mean that we should go there and ask questions. We want to know here what permanent arrangement is being made.

Mr. Speaker: I think it is for the Corporation.

Shri Karmarkar: The House is already aware that there is a proposal to construct a permanent weir which, I understand, will be completed in about a month's time. That will store up water. There are other proposals also, about which I have given information to the House, of augmenting Delhi's water supply. Naturally, this is a question which creates anxiety for all. So, I was asking of the Engineer what was the remedy for this. The remedy for this is that whenever there is water it is good that all householders store water as it is done in Bombay, for instance, where there is a limitation of hours and for the other hours they store the water. Here,—this is what he was telling me—having been used to 24 hours' uninterrupted supply, people do not equip themselves with the necessary utensils to store the water. Now this is the difficulty for this month and especially one or two months. Every year this difficulty has been arising. So, it is not that water is not supplied. During the hours that water supply is there, at that time, it would be advisable for the citizens to keep water under storage so that it could be used at other times when water is

not there. That is the position. It was explained to us when we asked them for information.

Acharya Kripalani (Sitamarhi): May I ask why, when we are getting water for all the 24 hours, the poor are not getting it?

Mr. Speaker: In some localities, water does not evidently reach the points. There are poor and the rich in the same mohalla. I do not know whether, perhaps, the richer classes are supplied and the supply is short for the poorer classes. Maybe in the same mohalla water may not be reaching all points. That is what we have been hearing on the floor of the House from the hon. Ministers.

Now, in view of the statement of the hon. Minister and the steps that are being taken in this direction, I do not give my consent to the adjournment motion. (Interruptions). What more remains to be done, that has to be taken up by members who are representatives of Delhi in the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

I have received notices of three adjournment motions. Yesterday also I received notices of adjournment motions. There are adjournment motions relating to the soaring prices of sugar. Inasmuch as Parliament will adjourn tomorrow I would like to treat these adjournment motions as Calling Attention Notices and request the hon. Minister to make a statement tomorrow.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I have to submit.....

Mr. Speaker: I may make one suggestion. I shall send all these adjournment motions to the hon. Minister. He has already got a copy of them. If there is any further information that the hon. Members want from the Minister so that he may make a fuller statement regarding those points also, they will kindly send their letters containing those points for consideration straight to him, or

[Mr. Speaker]

pass them on to the Secretary here. I shall try to send them to the hon. Minister so as to enable him to make a fuller statement and remove all difficulties arising in this regard.

Shri Vajpayee (Bairampur): I gave notice of a Short Notice Question, but the hon. Minister rejected it. If that also is treated as a Calling Attention Notice, we cannot put supplementaries.

Mr. Speaker: I shall gather all the Short Notice Questions which have been tabled so far and send them to the hon. Ministers. Hon. Members may let them know on what points they would like to have further clarification.

All the adjournment motions are disallowed.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: About the Calling Attention Notice.....

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members might pass on this.

12.15 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### AUDIT REPORT (POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS)

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Audit Report, 1959 (Posts and Telegraphs) under Article 151(1) of the Constitution and the Appropriation Accounts, 1957-58 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1430/59].

##### AUDIT REPORT AND APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS, RAILWAYS

Shri Morarji Desai: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers:—

- (1) Audit Report, Railways, 1959, under Article 151(1) of the Constitution. [Placed in

Library. See No. LT-1431/59].

- (2) Appropriation Accounts, Railways, for 1957-58, Part I—Review. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1432/59].

- (3) Appropriation Accounts, Railways, for 1957-58, Part II—Detailed Appropriation Accounts. [Placed in Library. See No. 1433/59].

- (4) Block Accounts (including capital statements comprising the Loan Accounts), Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Accounts, Railways, 1957-58. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1434/59].

##### TENTH REPORT OF LAW COMMISSION

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Tenth Report of the Law Commission on the Law of Acquisition and Requisitioning of Land. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1435/59].

##### REPORT OF COMMISSIONER FOR LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to lay on the Table, under Article 350B(2) of the Constitution, a copy of the Report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities for the period 30th July, 1957 to 31st July, 1958. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1436/59].

##### REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE VIGILANCE DIVISION

Shri Datar: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Administrative Vigilance Division for the period from the 1st April, 1958 to the 31st December, 1958. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1437/59].