

individual doing the recruitment? Secondly, when you advertise these posts, do you specify the minimum qualifications and allied criteria, so that the people at large will know these things? In the absence of these things, many allegations are coming up and we, Members of Parliament are approached by many people. Therefore, will the Minister consider having a screening committee consisting of experts and MPs—they are also experts—to prevent allegations of corrupt practices being made against the departments? Any appointment in any department should be through a proper screening committee. Will the Minister consider it?

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** The hon. member has put a very valid question. As far as selection is concerned, there is a committee consisting of senior officers and some experts also. As far as complaints regarding the selection in other departments are concerned, I do not have that information. But I will request the hon. member that this is a question on sports and he should take it in a sportsman spirit.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Mr. Gir-dhari Lal Vyas. He is a good sportsman!

श्री गिरधारी लाल व्यास : उपाध्यक्ष जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे कौन से अधिकारी हैं, जिन्होंने अपने रिश्तेदारों को लेने के लिए ऐसे गेम्स को उसमें शामिल किया है, जिसमें उनके रिश्तेदार एक्सपर्ट थे और उसी हिसाब से उन्होंने एप्लीकेशन्स मंगाई हैं? क्या मंत्री महोदय इसकी जांच करके ऐसे अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही करेंगे, जिन्होंने इस प्रकार से गलत कार्यवाही की है?

श्री सवाई सिंह सिसोदिया : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य का प्रश्न बहुत व्यापक है। उन्होंने पर्टिकुलर किस गेम के बारे में, किस सिलेक्शन के बारे में और किस अधिकारी के बारे में कोई जानकारी नहीं दी है, लेकिन मैं उनका विश्वास दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि इस बारे में भी पूरी सतर्कता रखी जाएगी कि कोई पक्षपात या गलत कार्यवाही न हो सके।

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Jamilur Rahman—another sportsman!

**SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN:** My friends Shri Jitendra Prasad and Shri Arakal have raised a very vital point with regard to the appointments in the central undertakings and central departments. I would like to ask whether the Government will be kind enough to appoint a central committee to appoint persons in various departments like Railways, Commerce, Finance, etc. under the quotas which are being advertised off and on by various departments?

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government. Prime facie such a proposal does not seem to be practical, because there are different organisations with different requirements. It is not possible to have a central committee.

**Hotel Kanishka and Ashok Yatri Niwas Lagging Behind Schedule**

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\*504. **SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:**

**SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the twin hotel projects, Kanishka, Ashok and Ashok Yatri Niwas of ITDC, are lagging behind schedule by 19 months;

(b) if so, concrete reasons therefor;

(c) whether this delay is likely to cause cost escalation to the tune of crores of rupees and if so, estimate thereof;

(d) what would be the quantum of losses otherwise;

(e) whether it is proposed to institute an inquiry and fix responsibility; and

(f) other action proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. In the case of Ashok Yatri Niwas, the delay is expected to be about 8 months and in the case of Hotel Kanishka, 18 months.

(b) Both the hotel buildings are 24 storey structures and the experience of execution of project of this nature has shown that about 30 to 36 months are required for completion of such projects. The delay in execution of this project is mainly due to the following factors:—

(i) In the case of Hotel Kanishka, the original completion schedule of 17 months was very ambitious;

(ii) the building contractor who had committed to complete the building in phases could not adhere to the schedule due to difficulties in mobilisation of adequate equipment, machinery and manpower;

(iii) substantial increase in the scope of the work, i.e. increase in the built-up area by 20 per cent and increase in the rooms from 300 to 344 and also larger public areas in Hotel Kanishka. In the case of Ashok Yatri Niwas the area has also increased by 20 per cent due to one additional floor being taken up on the main building and two more floors on the shopping complex;

(iv) provision of additional and better facilities such as fire detection/fire extinguishing system, diesel generators; channel music in all the areas, bath tubs in all the rooms and better finishing specifications, etc; and

(v) scarcity of construction materials, like cement and steel.

(c) and (d). As per original estimates, Ashok Yatri Niwas and Kanishk Ashok were estimated to cost Rs. 300 lakhs and Rs. 500 lakhs respectively. On present indications, the revised costs of these projects are likely to be of the order of Rs. 430 lakhs and Rs. 785 lakhs respectively.

The increase in cost of these projects is mainly due to increase in the scope

of work by 20 per cent, normal escalation upto the period of award of work by 20 per cent and the provision of additional and better facilities to the extent of 10 per cent of the original estimates.

(e) and (f). The progress of the execution of the projects has been reviewed and is being monitored. No inquiry is proposed to be instituted in the matter.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: The twin hotel projects, Kanishka Ashok and Ashok Yatri Niwas of ITDC, were sanctioned long back to provide more facilities to the tourists, domestic as well as international. But the concept to these projects was changed by the ITDC during the Janata period. These are 4-Star hotels and their construction was started by the ITDC during the Janata regime. The entire design concept and planning were changed by the Janata regime to suit the needs of the contractors at that time, working under the previous Minister for Civil Aviation. The contractors were asked to supply all materials including marble, furniture, design, decoration, etc. For all these things, sub-standard material was used. Even in construction of the hotels, sub-standard material was used extensively. The engineers were hand in glove with those contractors, who supplied the material. In this shady deal of construction and other things; the Government lost lakhs of rupees.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All information you are furnishing. What is it that you are asking?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I would like to know why the hon. Minister is not fixing responsibility. How much money was passed on when the previous Civil Aviation Minister was in charge? Who appointed this contractor? What is the amount of sub-standard material used in the construction? Is the construction according to the specifications, plans and designs? Why action has not been taken against the engineer who is involved in this?

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I think he has put both the supplementaries together.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** A huge amount of money changed hands during the Janata period to the coffers of the Minister holding charge of this portfolio. Therefore, I would like to know how many irregularities were committed by the private contractors. Will the hon. Minister institute an inquiry? Will he also assure the House that this inquiry will bring about a meaningful change in the design and other things to improve the construction of the hotel?

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Both your supplementaries are over.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** I am demanding an enquiry. Sub-standard material was used.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** No, I will not allow you to go on further. You are taking too much time. What is it? It is not a discussion. Both the supplementaries are over for you.

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):** Sir, in answer to the main question, my colleague has clearly stated that there are two reasons for the delay in the completion of the projects, Ashok Yatri Niwas and Kanishka. Firstly, at the time of starting construction, the estimate of time for the completion of the project was not properly made. So, it has taken some more time. The second reason for increase in the cost of construction is the increase in the scope of the work, which is 20 per cent in one case and 18 per cent in another case. There were also other reasons like non-availability of material. The main reason for the cost escalation is the increase in scope of the work and the rise in prices of materials during that period.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** My question has not been answered. Sir, please listen to me. Sub-standard

material was used and there was wrong designing and wrong planning. Because of this we had to pay more. It was stated that the private contractor of the ITDC was appointed by the previous Civil Aviation Minister. Will he hold an inquiry as to how much money passed hands, how much sub-standard material has been used and how many shady deals have taken place?

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** Sir, I have stated the reason for the delay. The cost has been revised, as also the Schedule for commissioning of these hotels. And if my hon. friend is interested to know this, I can lay on the Table of this House the revised timetable for the commissioning of these hotels.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Mr. Nanje Gowda.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** Sir, I want to put my second Supplementary.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** No, no. Please sit down. Mr. Nanje Gowda. Now it is over. Please sit down, Mr. Lakkappa. You cannot take the time of the House completely.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** I am not taking the time of the House. I am entitled to put the second Supplementary. I have got the right to put my second Supplementary.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** No, no. On one question you want to take the entire time. Kindly cooperate. Now, Mr. Nanje Gowda.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** I have got the right to put the second Supplementary. You give me the reason as to why you are not allowing my second Supplementary.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You had your say, Mr. Lakkappa. Please sit down. It is all right. You have taken more time. Now, Mr. Nanje Gowda.

**SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister stated that the contractor could not mobilise adequate equipment, machinery and manpower. That means, the antecedents of the contractor were not taken into consideration while awarding the contract.

Now, Sir, I want to know (a) what are the different items of work in both the hotels, those which are put to tender, and how many contractors tendered the work, how many tenders were conditional tenders, whether all the tenders were evaluated before taking a final decision and whether advances were paid to the contractors. If so, how much? I would also like to know whether the original agreements were revised and supplementary agreements were entered into, whether the rates were revised, what is the date of the original contract and the date of the supplementary agreement; (b) The hon. Minister stated three reasons for the increase in the cost, that is, increase in the scope of the work and normal escalation up to the period of award and also provision of additional and better facilities. What are the break-up figures of these in terms of money? Sir, I am told that the Urban Arts Commission have prescribed certain height limit in this area for constructing the hotels. I suppose it is about 120 ft. Now they have given permission for 200 ft. What prompted the Government to revise the decision and accept the tender?

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** First of all, I would like to make it clear that in this particular case the contractor is NBCC, the National Building Construction Corporation, a Government of India public sector undertaking. This is for the main work. There has been some other private contractor also for some other work, but for the main work it is the NBCC and the NBCC was awarded a contract in the case of Ashok Yatri Niwas. The civil and the structural work for this project was awarded to M/S NBCC, a Government of India Undertaking, towards the end of January 1979 and the work started in February 1979.

In the case of Hotel Kanishka this was again awarded to NBCC and these works started in February 1979. Both the works started in February 1979.

Sir, my friend wanted to know many things and one of the things that he wanted to know was as to why the estimate was revised. I have given the reason as to why the estimate was revised and it was mainly due to the increase in the cost of these projects. The reason for revising this is due to increase in the scope of work by 20 per cent, normal escalation up to the period of award of work by 20 per cent, and the provision of additional and better facilities to the extent of 10 per cent of the original estimates. This was the main reason. There was no other reason.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Sir, I think the reply he has given is causing great dismay to the Finance Minister. What is to be done? The costs are going up all the time. I would like to know from him whether in view of this admitted bungling in the original assessments and the schedule for construction, he can give any firm commitment to this House that these two hotels will be completed in time for the ASIAD games, we were told that they were being constructed for the purpose of ASIAD games.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** The revised schedule is—4 Guest room floors (84 rooms) and public areas like Coffee shops, main lounge and tea lounge. These are likely to be commissioned by November/December, 1981.

Another 7 guest room floors (147 rooms) main restaurant, bar and Conference Hall by January/February, 1982 and the balance 4 guest room floors roof top restaurant and commercial commissioning of hotel by March, 1982.

This is the revised schedule for Hotel Kanishka. We hope that by this time this will be fully commissioned.

In the case of Yatri Niwas—

7 guest room floors (215 rooms) a shopping complex, main lounge, tea

lounge and cafeteria by November/December, 1981.

Next 4 guest room floors (122 rooms) and restaurant by January, 1982.

Balance guest room floors with conventional furniture by March, 1982.

My friend will see that both the hotels will be fully commissioned before the game—ASLAD 1982.

**Huge Scale Import of drugs by USSR**

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\*504-A. SHRI R. L. BHATIA:

SHRI B. V. DESAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a USSR Pharmaceutical Team visited India last month for studying the possibility of importing drugs from India on a large-scale;

(b) if so, the outcome of discussions held by them with the pharmaceutical manufacturers in the private sector and the I.D.P.L.;

(c) whether the deal will be on Government-to-Government basis or the U.S.S.R. will purchase direct from the pharmaceutical manufacturers; and

(d) the names of some of the important drugs for which the USSR has expressed a desire to import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (d). A three-member team of the Ministry of Health from U.S.S.R. visited India during August, 1981. Their visit to India was primarily to

acquaint themselves with the functioning of pharmaceutical units in India. During discussions held at the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, no mention was made regarding purchases. Since they were members of the Ministry of Health connected with registration of drugs, their discussions were mainly about registration formalities.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: From the statement one cannot make out whether the high powered team of three Members of Ministry of Health, U.S.S.R. came to India just for visiting the health of our public undertaking, I.D.P.L., etc. Was this team invited by the Government of India or this team came on their own? If they came on their own, what interest had they shown in our public undertakings concerned?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: No doubt the personnel of this team belonged to the Ministry of Health of USSR. But they were not invited by us. We had no information about the arrival of this team from the U.S.S.R. or from our own Mission in Moscow. It appeared that the team came here in order to find out and see for themselves the standard of manufacturing of pharmaceutical products in this country and quality control. This was their purpose. Therefore, they visited a number of pharmaceutical manufacturing units at places—Ahmedabad, Baroda, Delhi, IDPL and apparently they went back quite satisfied.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: This seems to be a very strange affair. Neither the Government of India invited them nor they showed to the Government of India any interest. They came on a visit all the way. I think there is something which probably the Minister is not trying to tell us. Is it a fact that discussion took place with regard to expansion of our IDPL and other pharmaceutical concerns with the help of USSR? If so, he may kindly give us information.