

are being worked out by the Committee and the actual transfer of personnel will be undertaken as soon as these points are settled. Every effort is being made to expedite the finalisation of this matter.

C.P.W.D.

711. Shri Easwara Iyer: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the statement made in the Lok Sabha on the 14th August, 1957 regarding confirmation of workcharged staff of Central Public Works Department and state the progress made in the matter?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): For the implementation of my declaration in the House on the 14th August, 1957 regarding Workcharged staff of the Central Public Works Department, a special committee of officers has been set up and the committee is actively at work.

2. Before the confirmation of persons can be effected, permanent posts in each industrial category of Workcharged Establishment have to be worked out. Actual confirmation of persons can only be made after the permanent posts have been fixed.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAST BY SHRIMATI SUDHA JOSHI IN GOAN JAIL

12 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion relating to

"The indefinite fast by Mrs. Sudha Joshi in Madgaon jail in protest of the ill-treatment of women satyagrahis by the jail authorities."

I would like to know the facts. Has the Minister any information?

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): May I submit . . .

Mr. Speaker: I have read out the adjournment motion. I am asking the

Minister if he has got any information regarding this matter.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We have no information except what the hon. Member Shri Goray was pleased to tell us. And something has appeared in the press.

As soon as we heard about this, we got in touch by telephone with some officers in Bombay who also said that they had no special information except the press report that they had seen but that they would immediately inquire into that matter further. And perhaps, we may be able to get some more information about it. It is, of course, not very easy to get authentic information about things that happen not only in Goa but inside a prison in Goa, as it is a double prison. But, unfortunately, as we all know, conditions in the prisons there are peculiarly bad and most distressing. So, there is nothing very surprising about such a report. We shall certainly enquire further into this matter. At the present moment, I can say nothing more.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: My submission is that with regard to this matter, the feelings in the country are running high and the people are very much agitated. So, we would naturally like that Government take very urgent steps to get some more information and do something, if possible, to free those people who are still in the Goan jails.

Shri Goray (Poona): This is a matter on which I want the massive opinion of this House as well as of Government to express itself in no uncertain terms

Mrs. Joshi did not resort to this extreme measure light-heartedly. She had made appeal after appeal to the Governor-General of Goa saying that women satyagrahis were being ill-treated and ill-treatment should be discontinued, and that her should personally intervene. But when she did not hear anything from him, and the ill-treatment continued, she had to

take resort to a fast. She intimated her husband that from Wednesday she will have to live on water alone. That is how the fast has started

It is not a new thing in Goa that the prisoners there are ill-treated. I have tried to convey to you earlier also that so far as medical treatment is concerned, the Goan prisoners are completely neglected. It has been our effort to send them medicines or send them money so that they could buy medicines. Those four patriots who escaped from the Aguada prison very recently have also testified to the ill-treatment that is being given to the Goan prisoners. And now this fast has come

I want that we should try to bring as much pressure as possible on the Goan authorities and the Goan Government and see that the prisoners who are there in Goa, and who have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment—Mr. Joshi has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment and two years' imprisonment in lieu of fine, thus, in all, to twelve years—should at least be fairly treated

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I say that I am almost entirely in agreement with what the hon. Member has said in regard to this matter? And we think it is our duty and it is the duty of this Parliament and the country indeed to do our best to help these poor prisoners in Goa, apart from the larger issue I mean

In regard to Mrs. Sudha Joshi, there is another question which has not been decided yet as to whether she is an Indian national or not. I believe she claims to be an Indian national. But that apart, whether she is an Indian national or not, the very least that can be said is that they are entitled to civilised treatment, which they do not get

The hon. Member said something about our sending medicines and the rest. We shall gladly send anything, but I have this difficulty that when

he himself was in prison along with some others, I sent quite a considerable amount of books, but months and years afterwards I heard that none reached them. I took a lot of trouble in collecting special books—I had been told that they were interested in special subjects—but not one reached them. I do not know where they are still

Anyhow, we shall certainly fully enquire into this matter, and I do hope that Indian public opinion will also realise fully this continuing harsh treatment in regard to people whose sole guilt, if guilt, is that they wanted peacefully to secure the freedom of Goa

Shri Goray: It is not only Mrs. Joshi, but there is one Mr. Ranade who has been sentenced to twenty-eight years. Even after he has been sentenced he has not been removed from the police lock-up, and for twenty-four hours in the day, he has to sit in a cell. Both his mother and his brother went to see him, and they pleaded that he should be taken out at least for half an hour for a morning walk outside as constitutional. But they also have failed, and this young boy who has been sentenced to twenty-eight years will have to continue like that for years to come confined to a single cell

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Could we have an assurance from the Prime Minister that fuller information whenever available will be placed before the House?

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura): I believe the approach is wrong. The ideas of the Portuguese should also be changed as I tried in Pakistan

Mr. Speaker: We have heard enough. As and when further information is available with respect to such matters as these, which get publicity in the newspapers to a partial extent, I am sure the Minister will place it before the House

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Of course

Mr. Speaker: No special direction is necessary.

It is really unfortunate that these events are happening there. It has been again and again brought to the notice of the House. But except for bringing these various incidents to the notice of the House, nobody has suggested what further action can be taken. During the debate on the General Budget, hon. Members may give vent to their feelings, the unanimous feelings of the House.

Under these circumstances, I do not think it will be useful to give my consent.

Shri Yajnik (Ahmedabad): Can we not make an appeal to the Pope to interfere in this matter?

Mr. Speaker: We cannot invade that territory.

I do not give my consent to this adjournment motion.

Hereafter, what I would suggest is this I brought up this adjournment motion before the House because I merely wanted to get some information regarding this matter and also to show to the world that we are all interested in this matter. Otherwise, a short notice question would have been the proper means to elicit facts

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): I have already given notice of one

Dr. Ram Smbhag Singh (Sasaram): Because of this, the short notice question may be barred.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary (Kesaria): There is one suggestion. Raja Mahendra Pratap may be sent to Goa to change their minds, as he has done in Pakistan.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Yes.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF
HINDUSTAN HOUSING FACTORY
(PRIVATE) LIMITED, FOR 1956-
57

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (1) of section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of the Annual Report of the Hindustan Housing Factory (Private) Limited along with the Audited Accounts for the year 1956-57.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT552/58.]

STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN
BY GOVERNMENT ON ASSURANCES,
PROMISES AND UNDERTAKINGS
GIVEN

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the Table the following statements showing the action taken by Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers during the various sessions shown against each:—

(1) Supplementary Statement No. II.

Third Session, 1957 of Second Lok Sabha.

(2) Supplementary Statement No. VIII.

Second Session, 1957 of Second Lok Sabha.

(3) Supplementary Statement No. IX.

First Session, 1957 of Second Lok Sabha.

(4) Supplementary Statement No. VIII

Fifteenth Session, 1957 of First Lok Sabha.

[See Appendix III, annexure Nos. 62, 63, 64 and 65.]