

12.30½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT

Shri Barman (Cooch-Bihar—Reserv-ed—Sch. Castes): I beg to present the Twenty-fourth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts of the Government of Delhi for the year 1956-57 (1st April, 1956 to 31st October, 1956) and Finance Accounts, 1955-56 and 1956-57 (1st April, 1956 to 31st October, 1956) and Audit Reports thereon.

12.31 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ACQUISITION OF COLONIES BY DELHI ADMINISTRATION

Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria (Etawah): Under rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Health to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The delay in the release of certain colonies acquired in Delhi by the Delhi Administration".

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): As I explained in my statement on the 3rd December last, it was the Chief Commissioner who gave a notification of the intention of Government to acquire certain lands. The object was two-fold. Firstly, to ensure a planned development; as the hon. House knows, under the Master Plan, we are having a planned development. Secondly, the idea was also to stem speculation. But Government did not and do not want to stand in the way of legitimate housing. The concerned Ministries have gone into the matter and I am happy to tell the House that 11 colonies, their total acreage being 410, and ten other colonies with an acreage

of 136, are being released. The Government have decided to release these lands, on the ground that either they obtain the permission of the Municipal Corporation—the lay-out plans were approved—or of the Delhi Development Authority. Three more colonies, with an area of 89 acres were also sought to be released. Their cases are being considered by the Shahdara Municipal Committee, and after they come to a conclusion, Government will look into the matter.

That there has been so much delay in the matter is inevitable, because the matter had to be gone into carefully in order to avoid speculation. At the same time, the Government have tried to meet the legitimate demands and requirements of those colonies whose lay-out plans have already been approved. That is the position.

I am also laying on the Table of the House, for the satisfaction of the Members of the House, a statement giving the names of the colonies affected and also their acreage. That is all that I have to say on this matter.

STATEMENT

I am indeed very glad to get this opportunity to make a statement on a subject of great topical interest, which is at present exercising the minds not only of the hon'ble members of this House, but of the Delhi public at large and if I may say so, of the Government of India as well. At the very outset, I may incidentally observe that the presumption made in the notice that certain colonies in Delhi have been seized by the Delhi Development Authority is unfounded and as I had explained in the statement made on the 3rd December, 1959, in reply to the Call Attention Notice given by Sarvashri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Prafulla Chandra Borooah, it was the Chief Commissioner Delhi, who under instructions of the Government of India, issued a notification on the 13th November, 1959, announcing the intention of the Government to acquire 34070 acres of land in Delhi. In that

statement I had also explained that the proposed large scale acquisition of 34,070 acres of land was intended to ensure planned development of Delhi and also to help in preventing further speculation in land transactions which were reported to have been taking place on a large scale. A comprehensive policy regarding final acquisition and disposal of the 34,000 acres of land, which has been notified for acquisition under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, will be formulated in due course, in the light of the recommendations regarding land-use that might be made in the Master Plan for Greater Delhi, which is expected to be finally published by about the end of October, 1960. In the meantime, however, Government have decided, as a measure of meeting the acute housing shortage in Delhi, that the colonies or areas the layout/building plans of which had been approved by the Delhi Municipal Corporation, Delhi Development Authority or any other competent local authority, may be released from the purview of the Delhi Administration's Notification No. F.15(III)59-LSG dated the 13th November, 1959. This decision was taken early in January, 1960.

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi has collected necessary information from the Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Delhi Development Authority in regard to the colonies, the layout plans of which have been approved by these bodies. According to the information furnished by these local bodies, the names of the colonies which had been approved by them and the areas of each are as follows:—

(i) Area of colonies approved by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

	Sq. yds.
1. Hari Nagar 'L' Block	1,21,000
2. Layout plan of the land of Shri Mahabir Persad Sanghi	6,451.2
3. Ganga Ram Vatika	66,228

	Sq. yds.
4. Swatantra Cooperative House Building Society's Land	96,800
5. Green Park Extension	3,00,564
6. Greater Kailash II	10,93,840
7. Ajay Enclave	1,02,462.8
8. Sudershan Block Opp. Malvia Nagar.	6,243.6
9. Layout Plan of M/s Choote Lal & Co.	370
10. Jai Dev Park	78,166
11. Satyavati Nagar	1,34,552
TOTAL	20,10,005.6 sq. Yards or say 410 acres

(ii) Area of colonies approved by the Delhi Development Authority

	Area in sq. yards
1. D.L.F's Hauz Khas.	1,09,320
2. Model Town (Q. Block only)	14,520
3. Ashoka Park	20,171
4. Naveen Shahdara (only a portion has been notified).	20,000
5. Shyama Prashad Mukerjee Park	1,54,500
6. Hindu Bengali Cooperative Society, Civi Lines	2,35,078
7. Kanwal Park, Mathura Road	48,400
8. Sanwal Nagar	13,068
9. Friends Park on Ring Road	24,970
10. Harijan Colony	21,074
TOTAL	6,61,101 sq. yards or say 136 acres.

Total area of colonies approved by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Development Authority 546 acres.

In addition, the following three colonies had been approved by the erstwhile Shahdara Municipal Committee, but their layouts are being

[Shri Arjun Singh]

re-scrutinised by the Delhi Municipal Corporation:—

	Sq. yards
1. Prem Nagar, Shahdara (only a part has been notified)	94,480
2. Dilshad Garden, Shahdara only eastern has been notified)	3,04,920
3. Panchampuri Jawalaheri (only a portion has been notified) Approved by the Deputy Commissioner	34,290
TOTAL	4,33,690 or say 89 acres.

This would make a total of 635 acres if the Delhi Municipal Corporation finally decide to approve the layouts of the three colonies which had been approved by the erstwhile Shahdara Municipal Committee.

Before finally denotifying such colonies from the notification issued on the 13th November, 1959, the Government had to give careful consideration to the pros and cons of this measure. There was a well-founded apprehension that a possible result of the denotification of such colonies might be that the price of individual plots in the released areas would shoot up, thereby defeating the object of preventing speculative rise in the price of land for residential use. It was considered that to counteract such a development, Government should simultaneously announce their intention to develop substantial areas of land in various parts of Delhi and, lease or sell out such plots for residential use in the near future. It is a matter of great pleasure to me to announce today that it is the Government's intention to develop land in Delhi in a large way and to make it available with all possible expedition to genuine builders. We are also asking the Chief Commissioner, Delhi to expedite action to release the land of "approved" colonies from the purview of the notification in consultation with the Delhi Municipal Corpo-

ration subject to such conditions as he may consider appropriate for ensuring that the plots which are released are utilised for genuine residential purposes and are not kept unbuilt in the speculative expectation of future rise in their prices.

12.34 hrs.

STATEMENT RE WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AT SHAHDARA

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): Sir, in accordance with your desire expressed yesterday, I shall explain the position. I have very little to add to the facts that I gave yesterday about this matter. On the concerned date, that is, the 7th March, there was a gale and a storm by which electricity failed, and the body concerned went immediately into the matter. A patrolman was sent to trace where the power failed. He had to go beyond the Jumna bridge where it was found that three poles had been uprooted on account of the falling of a tree. Two poles were damaged. As the land concerned was waterlogged—it was a lowlying area—nothing could be done during the night-time, though the materials were collected. At 5 A.M. on the 8th morning, the repairs began, and in the evening the electric connection could be given. In the meantime, the population had to depend on hand-pumps, etc., etc., because they were the only source of water. Nothing else could be done. That is the information that I have to give.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Three poles were damaged. But how is it that it took more than 24 hours to repair them?

Shri Karmarkar: You will excuse me, Sir, if I say that the damage that was done had to require one whole day's time,—11 hours' time. It is not a question of three poles. I can concede that even if one pole is damaged,