

12.17½ hrs.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—*contd.*

MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. The hon. Minister.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur) *rose*—

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): Shall I reply now?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member, Shri Banerjee, was not present yesterday.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I wrote to you a slip saying that I was going away at 4 o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: We will assume that the work collapses and there is no hon. Member to speak, in that case shall I hold it over for the sake of Shri Banerjee?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister did not start his speech yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: It is very wrong. The hon. Minister must have started it yesterday. When no hon. Member takes interest and the House has to adjourn, when the hon. Minister is called upon to reply he must have done so. What can be done? Shall we go on accommodating hon. Members who do not care to be in their seats? I am not talking of Shri Banerjee at the moment. He intimated to me that he will come to the House only today. But this does not mean that on his account we will have to adjourn the debate. When no hon. Member was present to speak, we must have concluded the debate. The hon. Ministers must be ready to reply at any moment, whenever they are called upon to do so.

Shri K. C. Reddy: We were ready.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta (Mahendragarh): The hon. Ministers also were not ready.

Mr. Speaker: Now, how many hon. Members want to participate in it?

Some Hon. Members *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: Let each one explain why he was not here yesterday. (*Interruption*).

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am always present in the House.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, Shri Banerjee:

श्री बाल्मीकी (बुन्दशहर रक्षित प्रसूचित जातियां) मैं ने आज के लिये कहा था।

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Sir, I was in possession of the House yesterday. The Chairman had called me.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Five hours were fixed for this and only an hour or two were to be spent yesterday.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Two hours.

Mr. Speaker: Naturally, hon. Members may expect that three hours would remain and it would be taken up today. But on that ground, if an hon. Member says, "I told you that I will speak only tomorrow", am I to keep the debate going though the debate cannot be continued at the end of the day? That is what Shri Balmiki says. That is what Shri Banerjee claims. Therefore hereafter I will not allow hon. Members writing to me, "I am anxious to go away; call me today or call me at 3 o'clock, tomorrow morning or tomorrow afternoon." Hereafter I will not recognise any such request.

Shri Punnoose (Ambalapuzha) *rose*—

*Moved with the recommendation of the President

Mr. Speaker: He cannot have an exception in the House. Hon. Members must take their turn. There is no meaning in writing to me, saying that I must call them at a particular time. I cannot keep the debate pending until they come here. Unless an hon. Member satisfies me as to why he was not present I am not going to call him. Now, the hon. Minister.

Shri Punnoose: May I make a submission . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am not concluding the debate now. The hon. Deputy Minister is only intervening.

Shri Punnoose: Please listen to my submission and then reject it. There was a meeting of the Estimates Committee yesterday, and we were there.

Mr. Speaker: I accept the explanation, so far as the hon. Member is concerned.

Shri Punnoose: So, I may be given a chance for a few minutes.

Mr. Speaker: My remarks were intended only for hon. Members who had no other work. If they are engaged in parliamentary work in a committee, I do not object, because they do legitimate work. But, even then, they must have an eye on the House also. I would say that parliamentary work must not give place to any other work. Even if there should be a committee, hon. Members must be constantly watchful, and if they want to speak in the House, they must take leave of that committee and come here. The committee is only subordinate to the Parliament. I do not think the tail can wag the head. If they were engaged in the committee and did not want to speak then let them not come forward now and tell me 'Sir I was engaged in the committee': let them tell me in advance that they are engaged in the committee, and then I shall consider whether I should allow them or not.

Shri S. M. Bauerjee: We never expected the collapse of the debate.

Mr. Speaker: I agree

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yesterday evening, just about ten minutes before the House was to have adjourned, there were no other speakers, and the Chairman called upon me to speak. My colleague the Deputy Minister was also to have intervened in the debate, and he got up and said that since there was only very little time left, the debate might be adjourned for the next day, and on that understanding, the debate was adjourned for today.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There was no quorum also.

Shri K. C. Reddy: There was no quorum, and that was also noticed in the House.

Mr. Speaker: Nobody raises the question of quorum nowadays.

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): I raised the question of quorum.

Shri K. C. Reddy: So, my colleague will intervene in the debate now if you would permit.

Mr. Speaker: I found in the morning papers something said about the collapse of the work and, therefore, I thought so.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): May I make a submission? Generally, we sit till 6 P.M. nowadays. The fact that the House was to sit till 6.30 P.M. was announced only in the afternoon. So, it is but fair to the House that if we are sitting beyond 6 P.M. we must be given at least 24 hours' notice. For I know that some of my friends who would have stayed here, but they had an engagement at 6.10 P.M. and, therefore, they had to leave. In future, at least when the sitting of the House is extended beyond 6 P.M., hon. Members may be given sufficient notice.

Mr. Speaker: Did the House sit after 6 P.M. yesterday?

Shri Tangamani: Yesterday, the House sat till 6.30 P.M. As you will

[Shri Tangamani]

remember, the time allotted for the Demands for Grants relating to the Home Ministry was extended by one hour, and we were agreed that we should sit till 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Speaker: All extensions of sitting will be announced in the House at 3 P.M. and if there is an extension desired after 3 P.M. even if there is no quorum, we shall go on.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Quorum not being there is not good. There must be quorum.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): There are so many Members on the other side. Can they not even keep quorum?

Mr. Speaker: All extensions must be dispensed of before 3 P.M. so as to give notice, and I shall certainly stick to it. This is what I find from the proceedings:

"Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: May I say that so many detailed questions have been asked and we have 2 hours and 45 minutes left?

Then, somebody had said 'There is no quorum'. Then, the Chairman said:

"The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 A.M. tomorrow."

So, it was only a matter of ten minutes. So, there is nothing wrong. Even otherwise, since it is a matter of only ten minutes, hon. Members must be allowed an opportunity. It has been done rightly.

Now, Shri Anil K. Chanda. He is only intervening.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The five speakers who participated in the debate yesterday had all referred to

the sad condition of housing in the country. It is very well known that the condition of housing in our country, particularly in the rural areas is deplorably bad.

Mr. Speaker: I would only say one thing. When the hon. Minister had been called, he might have started saying 'Sir', and then said a few words, and then he would have been called upon to continue on the next day.

This kind of thing need not recur hereafter. When the sitting of the House had been fixed till 6:30 P.M. even if there had been one minute left, an hon. Member or an hon. Minister who was called might have said a few words and waited on until the time was over, and then, the matter would automatically have been adjourned to some other time. Newspapers report many things by reading which a person who is not acquainted with all this may take it that the debate in the House has collapsed for want of quorum. I do not want to set a bad example like this.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister was taken by surprise.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: May I say a word?....

Shri Ranga (Tenali): There is no need now for any more words.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I could not conclude my sentence. Even before I had finished, my hon. friend Shri S. C. Samanta got up and pointed out that there was no quorum.

I was just saying that all the five Members who had participated in the debate yesterday had referred to the sad housing condition in the country. Some of them referred to statistics also. It is a matter which calls for no help from statistics, because we are all aware of the most deplorable condition of housing, particularly in the rural areas.

12.26 hrs.

[Dr. SUSHILA NAYAR in the Chair]

Half an hour's walk to any village would depress even the stoutest of hearts. It is a fact that as regards the Plan allotment, really speaking, very little had been allotted to housing, and further, what was allotted originally was also cut down after the reappraisal of the Plan, and even what was finally allotted has not been fully utilised. These are basic facts of the case. But, all planning is basically a question of priorities, and the fact remains that practically all the States, that is, most of the State Governments are not prepared to give housing that priority which many of us would like them to give. The fact that housing, in our own minds also, does not have that priority would be quite clear from the fact that the House yesterday sat for most of the time when this Ministry's Demands were under discussion, without a quorum.

Certain statistics have been brought before this House, and certain statistics had been mentioned by hon. Members to impress upon the House the sad condition of housing in the rural areas. I myself am a little sceptical about statistics. Even though it is out of a Government publication, I, for one, am not prepared to believe that of the 54 million houses in this country, as many as 50 million are in such a condition as to require either to be pulled down and rebuilt or completely renovated. I shall not dismiss straightway a house only because it has not got a cement floor or it has got a thatched roofing.

In my part of the country, I have seen houses which are mud-built houses, which are almost as good as palaces. I remember that a few years ago, a very celebrated Austrian doctor visited India and spent a few days with us at Shantiniketan, the same doctor who had operated upon Netaji Subhas Bose in 1936. At the end of his visit in our area, he told

me that one of the most beautiful things that he had seen in this country was a Santal house, a house built with mud; it had a mud flooring, and it had got a thatched roofing. Anybody who has seen some of the tribal houses in our country will agree with me that these houses are surely some of the very best so far as the conditions of living are concerned, they have, however, their drawbacks; in most cases, there is no sanitation, and so far as the tribal homes are concerned, they do not also have any windows. But, anyway, as I said, I shall not accept that figure that we require about 50 millions of our houses to be rebuilt. But we all agree that the condition is pretty bad.

What we require most to make our life habitable in the villages is sanitation, water supply, better planning and roads in those areas. If I had my way, I am afraid my hon. senior colleague will perhaps not agree with me, but I make bold to say that if I had my way, I would divert all the money which is provided for rural housing towards the supply of drinking water in the rural areas. So far as the village roads are concerned, I say it rather facetiously, but I would say that it has become a major rural industry to encroach upon Union Board roads. There are hardly any roads in existence today in the villages, even though the papers would show that there were union board roads right throughout the rural areas.

So, I would implore hon. Members who are interested in the improvement of living conditions in the rural areas that they should try to help to create a feeling amongst the community that encroachment of public roads in the villages is a national crime, and also do their best to see that latrines are provided even in the poorest of homes. If we were to use human excreta for manurial purposes, it would have been all right if we did not have latrines, as they do not have in China; but since we do not use night soil for manurial

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purposes, for decency's sake it is absolutely necessary that even in the poorest home we have some sort of a latrine. Through our National Building Organisation, we have collected valuable material in this matter and published bulletins in popular language, so that we can enthuse the people and advise them as to how they can put up latrines in their homes at very low cost. These bulletins are mostly in English and some in Hindi, but I have taken the precaution of requesting our opposite numbers in the States that these important bulletins might be translated into the regional languages.

With regard to the comparatively small utilisation of funds placed at the disposal of States for rural housing, I might remind the House that it is not just an ordinary loan assistance programme. If it were of the nature of the low income group housing scheme where anybody who is qualified for it applies for a loan for house building and after the State Government has scrutinised the scheme he gets the loan, I am sure we could have fully utilised not merely the Rs. 5 crores provided but Rs. 50 crores or even Rs. 100 crores. The plan we are working out is called the Village Housing Projects Scheme. It is not merely rebuilding of dilapidated houses, but it is actually an elaborate scheme for the replanning of the whole village. It loan assistance to the extent of 66-2/3 per cent. of the total cost not exceeding Rs. 3000, Rs. 2000 being the loan, the remaining one-third being provided by the villager himself either in terms of money or by his labour or through materials.

Therefore, it is not very strange that all the Rs. 5 crores allotted for the village housing scheme to the States have not been fully utilised, because a lot of preparatory work was necessary. We wanted the State Governments to create cells which would make a physical survey and sociological survey of the village and

also secure the co-operation of the villagers, because without their co-operation it would not be possible to carry out the scheme as intended.

Shri Ranga: May I ask for a little clarification? My hon. friend was saying that they should secure the co-operation of the villagers. Is it not a fact that in spite of giving some subsidy or grant to the villagers to enable them to construct their own houses, houses are being built and these are being granted to the villagers with the help of contractors with the result that the contractors and various other people are swallowing more than 30 per cent of whatever is being granted?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I do not know where the contractors come in. This is a village housing scheme and the very essence of it is that the villager who secures this loan has to contribute one-third of the total cost by his labour or his material or by his money.

Mr. Chairman: I think the hon. Member's question is this: whether the villager is asked to construct the house on his own with the help of such local artisans as may be necessary or whether the Government or the authority in charge constructs the house through contractors?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: To start with, the Government does not construct. Secondly, utmost emphasis is given in this scheme on self-help. It is called an aided self-help scheme. If hon. Members go through the literature placed before them, they would find, even on a cursory glance, that this is a scheme which is based on the utmost cooperation of the villagers and they are to do the work themselves. So far as government assistance is concerned, apart from the loan, we give him technical assistance with regard to the better use of the local materials. This scheme envisages the formation of co-operative societies to supply materials like doors and windows and so on for

the construction of these village houses. It is because of the need for technical help that we wanted the States first to concentrate on such areas where there is a national extension block or a community development block, because there is a qualified overseer there who could give help to the villagers with regard to technical advice.

Shri Mohan Swarup (Pilibhit): You provide subsidy to industrial housing but only give loans to villagers....

Shri Anil K. Chanda: If the hon. Member will have a little patience, I will deal with that.

Mr. Chairman It would be better to let the hon. Deputy Minister proceed. After he has concluded, if there is any point requiring elucidation, it may be looked into.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The question of subsidy with regard to rural housing has also been raised by several Members. We had also ourselves taken up this matter with the Planning Commission. At the very beginning of my remarks, I had stated that planning was a question of priorities. The question whether we have the money to give subsidy to the village people for the reconstruction of their houses is a very important question. We give subsidy to the slum dwellers in cities; we give subsidy to industrial labourers. The reasons are very apparent. One who lives in a city has no access to building materials, whereas one who lives in a village has most of the materials with him. He uses bamboos and he uses thatching.

Shri Mohan Swarup: But he is much poorer than the industrial worker....

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I do not yield.

In most areas the materials are locally available and even the very poor has to some extent the materials

with him. For instance, in many parts of India, rural houses are made of mud. That is something which even the poorest has right in his own homestead. Certainly, if we were in a position to afford it, we should have liked very much to give subsidy even to the rural population which wanted to rebuild their houses. But I repeat that our resources are very very limited and, therefore, we have to proceed on a basis of priority. Most hon. Members would agree with me that the dwelling conditions of the industrial workers in our industrial areas and the slums in our towns are such that call for immediate redress. They are people who cannot build their own houses by their own effort unless some sort of subsidy is given.

Shri Mohan Swarup: It is worth mentioning that Government are providing only Rs. 1000 to the villager for village housing.

Mr. Chairman: Let the hon. Deputy Minister proceed and if at the end of his speech any clarification is required, it may be asked for or the hon. Minister himself may be able to take care of it later in his reply.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The figure mentioned by the hon. Member is not correct. It is not Rs. 1000. The maximum loan that is permissible is Rs. 2,000. We have also to remember in connection with this loan that the paying capacity of the villager has to be taken into consideration. Because loan is readily available, if we load up the villager with too much of loan, it may become an unbearable burden on him.

As I said, the rural housing scheme is of a nature which calls for a lot of preparatory work. I am happy to say that in most of the States, except the State from which my honourable and eloquent friend comes, namely, Jammu and Kashmir, they have geared up their machinery, preliminary surveys, have been completed and work commenced. In fact,

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three of the States—I think Rajasthan, Orissa and Mysore have taken up this work in great earnestness and actually they have drawn much more than what was allotted to them. They have taken into their operation a larger number of villages than what we had contemplated in the beginning. The fact that whereas during the last year the States have drawn to the extent of Rs. 178 lakhs, as against Rs. 190 lakhs during the preceding three years would show that they are now ready for fully working out this scheme and are able to assimilate more and more.

In the last Housing Ministers' Conference at Udaipur, there was a recommendation that in the Third Plan Rs. 30 crores should be allotted for rural housing and we have taken this matter up with the Planning Commission. We do not know what the final shape of things with regard to the Third Five Year Plan will be, but we are sincerely hoping that considerably more funds will be made available for rural housing in the Third Plan than was possible in the Second Plan.

I come now to the question of slums. This is a matter in which most of our Members, particularly those who come from the bigger cities, including yourself. Madam—if I may say so—are very keenly interested. The position of slums is very much the same as housing in the rural areas. It is basically a question of poverty. With our per capita income of Rs. 260 or Rs. 263, it is really very difficult for us to think of completely eradicating slums. Even industrially more progressive countries have not done very much better. I will refer to a recent article I read in a journal in which the author quotes from the book of an expert on rural housing. It is with regard to Liverpool:

“It is now nearly 100 years since Liverpool, in 1864, started a slum-clearance programme, but the city's slum areas still total 88,233

houses. And although rehousing goes on at the rate of 100 families a month, tens of thousands of working-class families continue to live in houses and buildings officially classed as unfit for habitation. Of the 88,233 in this category, 27,000 have been pronounced totally unrepairable. They are being demolished at the rate of 1,000 a year. At this rate some will remain even after 25 years from today, and by this time many more old houses will have been added to the list.”

Apart from other difficulties, the difficulty of sentiment is also there. Many Members who are very eloquent with regard to the immediate need of doing away with slums, but when it comes to the question of eviction of slum dwellers from the area or demolition of their huts illegally put up on Government land, they run up to us,—naturally their hearts are touched: the idea of somebody who has a roof over his head to be deprived of even that roof, is really moving—and prompted by the best of human instincts they seek our help, so that we may not start with the eviction or demolition. If it is summer time, the children will suffer in the scorching sun; if it is rainy season no demolition can take place in the rains; and if it is winter, the children will suffer in the cold. So, it is a matter which really bristles with difficulties and very often sentiment gets the better of our judgment. Anyway it is a vast problem and the funds at our disposal are very limited. Therefore the Asoke Sen Committee advised the Government that the slum clearance work should be concentrated in six of the biggest cities, Madras, Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi Kanpur and Ahmedabad.

In some of the States considerable work has been done. Though it is not for me to single out any particular State Government for special praise, I think I will be failing in my duty and false to my sentiments, if I do not say that the Maharashtra Government and

the erstwhile Bombay Government under the energetic guidance of their Minister of Housing Mr. Kazi, has done excellent work and the Prime Minister himself who went down to Bombay on the 1st of January to inaugurate the opening of a new township which has been started there, I think at the request of my Minister more or less gave an assurance that additional funds will be made available for Bombay to expedite the clearance of slums according to the scheme which has been worked out by the Maharashtra Government.

Shri Tangamani: What about the States other than Bombay?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: So far as other cities are concerned, under the scheme of slum clearance which is operated through our Ministry we do not entirely exclude the other towns. But a special case has to be made out with regard to some small towns. We have allowed slum clearances work with subsidy from Central Government if they have been able to make out a special case. But I again repeat that with the limited funds at our disposal we have to concentrate our work on the six bigger cities where some results can be achieved. Much can be done by way of example. If we are successful in clearing up one area, the people living in other areas will also be enthused.

Another trouble with regard to slum clearance work is that these people who live under most deplorable conditions in slums pay hardly anything. Whenever a pucca tenement is constructed, and all our tenements have got individual latrines and water-supply, naturally even the subsidised rent is considerably more than what they are paying. Therefore, there is a general lack of incentive in these people to move out even when quarters are allotted. It has happened in Delhi City where quite a large number of tenements which formerly the Delhi Improvement Trust and later on the Delhi Development Authority had built remained unutilised for a long period. But it is mainly a question of poverty.

I come now to the question of subsidised industrial housing. In this field considerable progress has been made. I do not say that the States have fully utilised all the money which was provided but they have done very nearly so. They have their difficulties. Unfortunately in most of our towns the industrial installations are right in the midst of the city and there is a general belief that the workers are not to be housed two miles away from where they work. That makes the question of putting up of industrial tenements very very difficult. The chief difficulty is with regard to land. Land is a thing, as you know, which even most powerful Governments cannot add to the quantum which is already there, unless of course like China, they were to grab somebody else's land. We cannot do that. So, we have to be content with what we have. If my hon. friends on the other side were not so very insistent upon seeing that industrial tenements must be built within striking distance of the factories and work sites, possibly much better work would have been done.

Most of the States now have got special laws passed for acquisition of land for industrial purposes and we have also allowed them to divert temporarily on a loan basis, part of the money given for subsidised industrial housing, so that they can acquire land, develop it and utilise it for industrial housing. It is true, as my hon. friend Shri Tangamani has referred in his speech, not 15 per cent. but 17 per cent. of the houses in this sector has been built by the employers. Most of the work has been done by the States and the question of compulsion upon employers is energetically before Government. But it is a problem which really bristles with difficulties. It is very easy for us here to enact a law which will compel the employer to put up the requisite number of houses and tenements for the workers. But immediately the question of land will arise. If an industrial employer comes to me and says: You are forcing me to put up industrial tenements; I am ready with money; where is the cement.

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where is the steel, where is the land? I do not know what answer Government can give.

This matter has been thrashed out on several occasions in the various Housing Ministers' Conferences and the Ministry of Labour and Employment who are mostly interested in this matter have prepared an elaborate paper giving us detailed information with regard to what has been done in other countries in this field. I personally feel that whereas it is a moral obligation on the part of the employer to give housing to his workers, we should not lead up industry with a burden which they may find it difficult to bear. Housing is necessary for the workers. But even more important is providing work to the people. If we take a step by which we retard to some extent the industrial expansion, possibly we will be doing greater harm to the people than denying them the privilege of living in better houses. Anyhow, I assure the House that the matter is before us, and we, in consultation with the Planning Commission, will soon come to a decision as to what can be done by way of compelling the employers to put up industrial tenements for the workers. That is all right. But what about the housing by the labour co-operatives? My hon. friend Shri Tangamani who takes a lot of interest in this matter and makes valuable and constructive suggestions is very much interested in the labour movement. A large number of labour unions are under the control of an organisation which is under the control of their party. What have they done to enthuse them to build their own houses?

An Hon. Member: Nothing.

Shri Tangamani: We have constructed eighty-seven houses in Rajapalayam, which the hon. Minister Shri K. C. Reddy himself knows.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am surprised at the number of eighty-seven houses against the number of millions of workers in this country. We are

giving the greatest of financial assistance to housing co-operatives of industrial workers—25 per cent. subsidy, 65 per cent. loan, and the remaining 10 per cent. also can be drawn by them out of the accretions of their provident fund. So, industrial workers, without the outlay of a single naya Paisa, can build houses with the help of the subsidy and the loan given. And I would respectfully suggest to my hon. friend Shri Tangamani and members of his party who have considerable hold over labour in this country, that they may exercise their good offices for creating an atmosphere by giving constructive suggestions to the workers that they may avail themselves of the loans and subsidy.

With regard to Delhi we have a very elaborate scheme for the acquisition and development of land for the slum clearance work, and particularly with regard to *jhuggis* and *jhompri*s. The plan has already been put into operation. Quite a sizeable amount has been provided for Delhi during the Third Plan, and I am sure results of quite a spectacular nature would be achieved by the Delhi Administration. But here also we seek the co-operation and assistance of the hon. Members, particularly those representing the Delhi constituency, so that they can help us when the question of evacuation of the slum dwellers crops up.

With regard to this matter, before I take up another subject, I would like to say that the siting of industry is a very important matter and it would be very desirable, I personally consider, not to allow any new plant to come up within striking distance of a city. Otherwise, fresh problems in housing will arise for the next generation. In most countries they are trying to disperse industry over a wider area. Formerly, it was not possible in our country, but now that power is available in the newer areas and roads are being constructed at a good pace it will be well worth our States' consideration whether they should not

restrict the granting of licences to industrial concerns for starting factories and plants near a big city. We might even consider the matter whether some of the existing industries in the bigger cities could not be moved out. When I was in China a few years ago and I was in Shanghai for a few days, I was told by the local Mayor that they considered that the optimum density of population of Shanghai had been over-reached and they were forcing some of the industrial plants to move out of the city. It may not be possible to that extent in our country, but certainly we might take the preventive step of not allowing industrial concerns to be started very near those bigger cities.

I would now like to come to an explosive subject, the matter of explosives. Shri Tangamani who is very alert about this matter has given a very large number of cut motions on this. But we had, I believe, quite a big discussion on this matter over the terrible accident at Jamuria Bazar and I made the position of the Explosives Department of my Ministry quite clear. Our people are technical people, and their inspection is with regard to making it certain that certain restrictions with regard to the distances to be observed between the factory and the residential houses, also within the compound with regard to the storage of gun powder, the preparation of gun powder, etc. are properly observed, and also to advise the people as to how they should proceed with their work. Of course, it is very necessary that there should be as frequent inspections as possible. But even if there were to be an annual inspection, or, I make bold to say, even if a monthly inspection is possible, we cannot avoid accidents of the nature which recently happened in Baraset, about which Shri Tangamani referred in his speech. Here was a factory which was in existence for twenty years or more. Year to year, before renewal of licence, we require a certificate from the local administration that conditions obtaining in the factory are all right and the licence may be renewed. And in this particular factory, the inspection had taken place as late as, I believe, in the

month of September 1960, that is hardly six months before the accident happened. We have not yet received the final report of the magisterial enquiry, but an iron hammer was found near the place where the explosion had taken place. Now, Madam, it is absolutely imperative that no iron or steel implement should be used with regard to any operations in an explosives factory, because at the slightest touch of an iron implement with an explosive, there may be a spark and an explosion may take place. So far as the preliminary enquiry goes, it tends to show that the goods produced in the factory were packed up in wooden boxes, and possibly the nails were driven in with a hammer which might have set a spark which might have caused this terrible accident.

Shri Tangamani: Was it manufacturing amorces or crackers?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Not amorces; I am not quite sure; it may be some sort of fireworks.

Then he referred to the other matter, the case at Sonepur in Orissa and the magisterial enquiry. Here is a small concern who held a licence, not given by our Department but by the District Magistrate under, what is known, as Form I. That is a licence given to a small plant for the manufacture and storing of gun powder not above 25 lbs. in quantity. And these licences are given by District Magistrates themselves. We do not come into the picture at all. It is most unfortunate that an accident has taken place, but it has also cost the life of the licensee himself. Not merely was he doing something which was not permissible under the rules, these fireworks being manufactured in a place which was not really licensed, but it was in his residential home where he was making the gun powder. There was an explosion and the poor man paid with his life.

I now come to the case of Bali about which there was a question. And my hon. friend, Shri Harish Chandra Mathur suggested that I was giving

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wrong information to the House. I made enquiries immediately after he had made his remarks in this House, and to some extent I was really wrong, Madam. From the report that had come to us it seemed that the Bali Fort was not in the possession of the State. But later enquiries revealed that it was a fort which had passed on to the State after the States reorganisation several years ago in Rajasthan. And I am very sorry for this incorrect information which I had conveyed to this House on the basis of insufficient information which I had received previously. With regard to Bali, it was a fort which was in Jodhpur State, and it passed into the hands of the Rajasthan Government. The Rajasthan Government or the District Magistrates of some of the former Rajasthan States informed our Department of the forts and palaces which had come into their possession where gun powder is stored generally for the use of the saluting guns. Forty-two such premises were brought to our notice. Thirty-four have already been inspected by the officers of our department and in 17 cases the gun powder stocks had been destroyed by the officers of our department. No information regarding the existence of gun powder stocks in Bali fort was received by the Explosives Department. The explosion at Bali fort came, therefore, as a surprise to the officers of our department. After this explosion took place, the district authorities informed us of another stock of gun powder in another fort Sojat city; and that has already been inspected by our officer and the gun powder destroyed. But, in some cases, we have difficulties with the owners of the forts because they object to gun powder being destroyed before it was fully explored whether it could be sold to licensed holders as expeditiously as possible. It may be that in Rajasthan, where the whole area is full of old forts and palaces, many of whom have come into the possession of the State, there are still forts and palaces where full inspection, and all possible search for gun powder has not been made and we propose to write

to the Chief Minister of Rajasthan requesting him to ask his officers to send us a complete list of all those palaces and forts so that we can make our enquiries.

13 hrs.

So far as augmenting the staff is concerned, we have already taken certain steps. After the Jamhuria explosion, there has been a special officer appointed in the very area, Asansol. We have a special officer at Gomea and also in Sivakasi in South India which is practically the centre of the fireworks industry in our country.

Shri Tangamani: It was started in 1959.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It was not as a result of the Surjit committee. But we were aware of our growing responsibility in this matter. I may tell the House that what we have done after the report was received and studied by us is to make a complete Manual of the Act, the Rules, etc. in the country and the procedure of inspection. They have been tightened and the State Governments have been given full instructions in this matter. More than that, we have also made a film of the hazards from explosives and it is soon to be released for public exhibition in large cinema halls throughout the country. We have also taken up ourselves the task of training State Government officers, police officers, etc. with regard to the methods to be employed in controlling explosive factories in the country.

I come to the question of Hotels. About Janpath, the House is aware that it was originally contemplated to be a government hostel of a sort, just like the Western Court and the Constitution House and so on. Later on, because of the UNESCO conference, which was held towards the end of 1956, for which a very large number of important guests were expected from all parts of the world, we hastened with the construction of the Ashoka

Hotel and the Janpath was also turned into a Hotel. It has certain structural defects because what was meant to be a hostel, in course of time, became a first class international hotel.

The catering, at the moment, is under a contract with a private contractor, as it is done in the case of the government hostels in Western Court and the Constitution House. But, we are considering what steps can be taken with regard to the future of Janpath. The Estimates Committee had made certain recommendations which are being examined by our Ministry. But, I might as well tell the House that this Hotel also is becoming quite popular. The rate of occupancy is considerably higher this year than it was in the previous year; this month than it was in the previous month. I have broadly gone through the lists of guests etc. Some of the clients come quite continuously to this Hotel. There are cases where the same man has come 40 or 42 times. So, roughly speaking, we may hold this view that the Hotel, possibly, is not being run in such an atrocious manner as certain hon. Members tried to convey to this House. But, whenever a complaint is brought to our notice, we do our best to rectify the faults. There is a committee of our Ministry which sits as a sort of governing body over this Hotel.

Now, I come to the Ashoka Hotel about which my hon. friend, Shri Tariq was very eloquent. I could not follow his speech completely because his Hindi or Urdu is very high-flown; is sounded to me....

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): That was Arabic, I believe.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Arabic or Greek; but it sounded to my ears very sonorous and sweet. Later on, I got a translation of his speech. There are various points which I can hardly refer to because I have already taken more than the time that I could normally take. It is not a white elephant for the simple reason that whereas in the last year we had a

profit of Rs. 9.7 lakhs, this year we would have—and I think it is a conservative estimate—a profit of Rs. 25 lakhs, after making all the necessary appropriations with regard to depreciation, rents, interest etc. And, considering that this is happening in the course of 3 or 4 years, I think, it is a very very commendable record.

With regard to expenditure and expenses, it has been said that we spend too much money than is absolutely necessary. For the 12 months ending the 31st March, 1959, the average monthly income was Rs. 5,20,000 and the expenditure was Rs. 6,37,000. For the 12 months ended, March 1960, the average monthly income has been Rs. 6,29,000 and the expenditure has been Rs. 5,47,000; and for the last 11 months, the average monthly income has been Rs. 7,36,000 and the expenditure has been Rs. 5,22,000.

Then the question of accommodation had been raised. We have spent over Rs. 17½ lakhs in the construction of staff and servants quarters. Over 500 employees live in these quarters. No rent is being charged so far. Now that we have started earning profits, it is the intention of the managing committee to build some more quarters for the workers. But, as against that the Estimates Committee had recommended that no more money should be spent on capital works. Government are considering this matter.

My friend, Shri Tariq referred to the exorbitant rents charged from the shopkeepers. I want to make the position of the Hotel very clear. It is done on the basis of tenders; and business organisations are not, certainly, charitable institutions. He referred to a book-seller. Certainly, just for the joy of giving Rs. 6,000 or Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 12,000 to the Ashoka Hotel he does not enter into a contract. He is a businessman; and he knows the debit and credit side of accounts very well. The very fact that Shri Tariq brought to my notice the case of a gentleman known to him who had a shop and who had tendered for a renewal of the licence.

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But, because his was not the highest tender, he was more or less given notice to quit, and then, he was willing to give a sum considerably higher than what he was paying as rent—before that itself shows that, as a businessman, he knows that, it was still worth his paying a higher rent to have his shop in the precincts of the Ashoka Hotel. All this is done on the basis of tenders. Are we really to have a principle that we need not go in for highest tender where government income is concerned? Then, who is going to decide as to who should get the shop? I am sure, if we accept a lower figure, the House will condemn us as having shown some favouritism or nepotism, to some particular shopkeeper.

Then, the hon. Member referred to the salary of the General Manager. I would take this opportunity of paying a tribute to the workers of the Hotel as well as to the managing staff for the excellent manner of their running it and for the better relations now existing between the officers and the workers.

The General Manager gets a salary of Rs. 2,400 monthly, and we should look at it as a big industrial concern, where nearly Rs. 3 crores of government money have been invested. The Manager's flat is in the Hotel, specially constructed for the purpose, because he is a 24-hour man. Many of the Airliners arrive at Delhi in the dead of night. Bear in mind that he has often to sit up the whole night and welcome the newly arriving clients. The accommodation occupied by him at present consists of one sitting room, two bed rooms and a study and he pays a concessional rate of Rs. 500 for board and lodging. It is incorrect to suggest that he gets benefits to the tune of Rs. 5250 per month for the accommodation. This figure would hold good if his flat is converted into living accommodation for guests in the hotel and if after conversion this accommodation remains

occupied throughout the year. Similarly, the manager's salary is Rs. 2500. He is a foreigner and his accommodation consists of two main rooms and he pays a concessional rate of Rs. 300 per month on account of board and lodging.

The hon. Member Shri Tariq referred to what he described as the 'martial rule' in the hotel. I have got the break-up of the ex-servicemen in the employ of the hotel. It has today 1300 employees altogether. About ex-service people, there is one in the administrative staff, 20 in the security staff, 8 peons and porters, six cooks, seven persons in the stores, 3 on the technical side, three on the accounts side, two stewards, one driver and one room bearer—there are thus in all 52 ex-service personnel out of 1300 employees in this hotel.

He said that the profit was due to the Government guests being dumped in that hotel. That is far from true. Certainly it is not more than 3-4 per cent. during the last two years. He asked: what happens to the left-over of the food articles brought to the table. The hotel authorities assure me that proper check is exercised on what is left over and those which could be consumed are utilised again. The expenditure on publicity was three per cent. of the total income during the year ending 31-3-1960. During the current year it is estimated to be 1.7 per cent. of the total income.

13.11 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Shri A. M. Tariq (Jammu and Kashmir): With reference to the stores and other things, may I draw the attention of the hon. Deputy Minister to the auditors' report which is incorporated in the report of the Estimates Committee? If you like, I would read it. Sir, with your permission:

"The records relating to issue of stores call for further improvement. As for our note in our

report on the previous year's accounts concerning the effective check on the consumption of stores in the kitchen, while there has been some improvement, there is still room for more."

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There is always room for improvement and I am sure the hotel management will try for greater improvements in this matter. He referred to the presence of the I.C.S. officers.

Shri A. M. Tariq: I never mentioned I.C.S. officers; I referred to the Secretaries.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Most of the Secretaries are I.C.S. officers and there are eight Government officers. It is a matter of policy and it before the Government as to what should be the policy in respect of the Government concerns.

I am just concluding, Sir. With regard to the Santragachi Press, I have to submit that the equipment was got at a very considerably lower rate than would have been the case now. (*Interruptions*). When we were ready to set the machines into operation, unfortunately we were not in a position to get the necessary power. We have now been informed that power is available and we have already approached the Home Minister for giving us sanction for the employment of new hands for starting that wing. The building for the Dharamtala Press in Calcutta is practically ready. It will be occupied soon. During this year we have started a press at Gangtok for printing in Nepali, Tibetan and Hindi languages. There was formerly no press in the State and so on an excellent press had been started there.

With these remarks, Sir, I thank you for this consideration shown to me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri S. M. Banerjee.

Shri A. M. Tariq rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does Shri Tariq want to make a speech again?

Shri A. M. Tariq: I would like to ask only two questions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would be seen afterwards.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, I would confine my remarks to only four or five items. The first item which I would refer to had been discussed in this House many times. About 6000 quarters have been constructed for the industrial workers of Kanpur and Allahabad and Lucknow and other places in U.P. These houses have been constructed under the subsidised industrial housing scheme. About 4.5 thousand Central and State Government employees are occupying these houses. At the time when these houses were completed they were not actually occupied by the industrial workers belonging to the private sector because the rent was too high for them. The rent was about Rs. 10 and the electricity and other charges were about Rs. 3—a total of about Rs. 13. When you compare this with their salaries in their factories, they could not pay this rent and occupy these quarters. No doubt, some textile workers whose salaries were good have occupied those quarters. At that time when they were unoccupied some 1500 quarters were allotted to the employees of the Central Ordnance Depot, Harness and Saddlery Factory, Small Arms Factory, Parachute Factory and probably the Technical Development Establishment in Kanpur and also the Central Ordnance Depots at Cheoki. After a lapse of 2.3 years, it was said that these Government employees had no business to occupy these quarters and some officials here or in the State said that they were primarily constructed for industrial employees in the private sector and should not have been allotted to the present occupants. I am thankful to the hon. Minister who visited Kanpur and I had the privilege of taking him round one of these colonies. I explained to him

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the difficulties experienced by the Central Government employees of the various Defence Establishments. Today there are about 20,000 civilian defence employees in Kanpur and the total defence quarters are hardly 4600. In a place like Kanpur in a city of plenty and poverty—it is very difficult to get a house; it is easier for a man to construct a house of his own than to pay exorbitant rent and still he does not get any house. When this difficulty was pointed out to the Central Government and the Defence Ministry, they were kind enough to allow a thousand more quarters to these defence employees. But the point now is that these 4000 employees are likely to be evicted. Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, the Labour Minister of my State, came here and I am told that she had some discussions with the hon. Deputy Minister and she must have pleaded for these 4000 employees. The State Government is unable to pay back the amount which they took from the Centre. I am told that this amount was paid as a sort of subsidy and my State Government would never have imagined that ultimately the subsidy will be converted into a loan and it would be realised from them.

Sir, I do not hold any brief for the Chief Minister of my State. But surely, as a citizen of my State I must say that they are unable to pay this amount, because if they pay this amount they will have to realise this amount by increasing the rent which is already more than the capacity. They have been increasing the rent from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 and for a two-room tenement from Rs. 15 to Rs. 21 or Rs. 17-8-0 in certain cases. So I would plead that as long as quarters are not constructed for the employees of the Defence Department and the other Central Government and State Government employees in Kanpur where there is an acute shortage of accommodation, the hon. Minister should see that those workers are not evicted. After all, they are also serving in industries. It should not be a

disqualification for an industrial worker if he serves in the public sector. Sir, this Government which is said to be moving towards socialism must consider the State Government employees, the Central Government employees and the employees who are working in the private sector in the same light.

My next point is about slum clearance. I am happy—when Shri Ashoke Sen's report was discussed in this House we came to know of it—that Kanpur has also been declared as one of the worst slum areas. Sir, I was hearing the speech of the hon. Deputy Minister. He said that when slums are being cleared, when any decision is being taken to have the slums cleared up and new buildings constructed, the difficulty that arises is that the slum dwellers do not like to move. It is true. I have experience of it in Kanpur itself. But what is the idea behind it? Do you think that the slum dwellers want to live in those slums only? Do they not want to go to good houses where they can have better light and air? Sir, they are not interested in continuing in the slums. I may remind this House that when the hon. Prime Minister visited Kanpur in 1955—I speak subject to correction—to inaugurate the Employees' State Insurance Scheme, he visited some of the slums and said that the slum dwellers must burn those houses. Sir, they have not the same power that the Prime Minister has, otherwise they would have really burnt those houses. So it is only due to the good wishes and the blessings of the Prime Minister that these houses were constructed.

Now, when a particular area is acquired under the slum clearance scheme, the slum dweller puts us a poignant question. He asks: "What is our guarantee? Do we get some houses here in this area? Do we get compensation for the small land that we possess today?" Sir, betterment charges are paid. You can imagine that in 1930 or 1935 or even before

that in 1920 some ordinary mistri in a factory or some worker in a factory might have purchased a plot of land at eight annas a square yard. Today the value of the same land must be Rs. 20 or Rs. 15 or at least Rs. 5. Do you want to pay them at the 1920, 1930 or even 1935 rate? It will not be doing justice to these men if it is decided like that. If the people residing in these slum areas are assured that they will be paid proper compensation, that they will be given accommodation in the houses which will be built in those areas, I am sure this question can be solved. I have brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that if these two things are taken into account while acquiring land under the slum clearance scheme the problem can be solved. I hope this will be done.

Two things were brought out in the report of Shri Ashoke Sen. One was about the long-term proposals and the other about the short-term proposals. About the short-term proposals, Sir, you will be surprised to know that even now just to get a bucket of water a man has to stand in a long queue. You can imagine how people can increase production, how people can work efficiently in their factories if for a mere bucket of water they have to wait for long hours from six in the morning. Same is the case with community latrines. Community latrines in the slum areas are a nuisance. It is a slur on our society. These latrines have no doors. There is no privacy for the people using these latrines. Sir, I talk from my experience and I talk on behalf of those slum dwellers whom I have the privilege to represent. The long-term proposals might take some time, but the short-term measures like fixing of a tap, provision of a tubewell or construction of certain small lavatories with flush system can be done with the amount that has been granted under this particular scheme.

Then I come to the proposal for constructing a janata hotel in Delhi. I was extremely happy when I came

to know that a hotel called "Janata Hotel" will be constructed in Delhi. We have seen the Ashoka Hotel. We have seen the Janpath Hotel. Now we will see the Janata Hotel, which I am sure will not be as luxurious as the Ashoka Hotel or the Janpath Hotel. But when the Janata Hotel is constructed on a site near Minto Road the janata of that particular area is being affected.

Shri K. C. Reddy: They will be given alternative accommodation.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: About 40 families I am told have been given eviction notices. I do not know why some people should be evicted. Is there shortage of land in Delhi due to which some quarters belonging to class III and class IV servants have to be demolished so that a Janta Hotel can be constructed? Moreover, a question has been raised by the residents of that place. They have said that the hotel atmosphere near family quarters is not good. I do not know whether in this hotel also there will be Rock 'n' Roll dances.

Shri K. C. Reddy: No.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: If it is a Janata Hotel there may be Bharata Natyam. But still, I am only reminding this House and the hon. Minister that a hotel of this kind should not be situated in those areas which are inhabited by class III and class IV employees. The hotel may be constructed, but not at the cost of these people, not by carrying out the eviction of these people.

Speaking of quarters, Sir, I must say that there is no verandah provided for class IV quarters. It is only a one-room tenement, whether it is Seva Nagar or other areas or the Harijan colonies at Bhopal. I would only say that the new quarters which are being constructed should not be less than two rooms. A decision has been taken by the Defence Ministry. I hope a decision will be taken by certain other ministries that at least two-room tenements with a verandah

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should be constructed for these people. At least that much accommodation should be there for a family consisting of wife and two legitimate children (*Interruption*). That is the definition for a family in our country. They say "legitimate children". It is written in the books.

Then I come to the question of inspection of stores. This question was raised by my hon. friend Shri Tangamani. I want to know whether it is a fact that 90 lbs. of rail anchors manufactured by Messrs. Singh Engineering Works, Kanpur for the Southern Railway have been found defective after testing by the Railways and the Director, Alipore Test House, Calcutta. I want to know whether it is also a fact that these anchors were previously passed by the Deputy Director of Inspection, Kanpur. Sir, I talk of Messrs. Singh Engineering Works because they are notoriously known in Kanpur having good relations with everyone. I am apprehensive of certain things. If these anchors were passed by the Deputy Director of Inspection in Kanpur and ultimately found to be defective by the Alipore Test House, I am sorry that something is very wrong. My question is only this: I do not impute any motive to any officers, and I rather like them, but if these things were found defective, why were not the defects pointed out? My submission is that when the officers deal with this particular firm, they should deal with it very carefully. Otherwise, the officers will be in trouble. This is a caution and a warning to the officers who are there.

About horticulture, I am thankful to the hon. Minister for taking up the whole thing in his hands and I hope that he will effect the promotions that are due here. About the Hindustan Housing Factory, I may point out that the people there are still working on daily rates of pay. I would request the hon. Minister to consider the question of converting the daily rates of pay into monthly rates of pay.

Now, about certain quarters in Delhi the occupants were evicted from those quarters which were declared in 1954 as not fit for habitation. I want to know whether the quarters have become habitable now, and, if so, what is the reason for not restoring those quarters to the people who were then evicted?

श्री बाल्मीकी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कल से निर्माण, आवास तथा सम्भरण मंत्रालय की मांगों पर विचार चल रहा है। मैं किसी कार्यवाह कल इस सदन में उपस्थित न हो सका, किन्तु आज मैं उन क सम्बन्ध में अपने विचार प्रकट करना चाहता हूँ।

इस मंत्रालय के सी० पी० डब्ल्यू० डी० में जो भ्रष्टाचार का समावेश हो रहा है, उस को दूर करने के लिये जो प्रयत्न किये गये हैं और सतर्कता यूनिट ने जिस तीव्रता से कार्य किया है, उस के लिये मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ। जिस दिन से वह इस मंत्रालय में आये हैं, उसी दिन से उन के मस्तिष्क में भ्रष्टाचार को दूर करने के बारे में एक प्रकार की बेचैनी रही है। जिन अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध इस प्रकार के गहरे भ्रष्टाचार के आरोप रहे हैं, उन के विरुद्ध जो कार्यवाहियाँ की गई हैं, उन से हमें यह उम्मीद होती है कि हमारा यह मंत्रालय भ्रष्टाचार के दोष से पवित्र हो रहा है। लेकिन मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह प्रवश्य रुहंगा कि ठेकेदारी प्रणाली को, जो इस प्रवस्था की और इस भ्रष्टाचार की एक जड़ है, दूर करने के लिये क्या प्रयत्न किये गये हैं, जबकि पिछले वर्षों में बराबर यह सवाल उठाया जाता रहा है कि ठेकेदार, चाहे वह कर्मचारियों को लाने वाला ठेकेदार हों, या निर्माण की योजनाओं को हाथ में लेने वाला ठेकेदार हों, जड़ होता है भ्रष्टाचार को फैलाने का और अधिकारी और दूसरे कर्मचारी उन से लाभ उठाते हैं। वे मजदूरों को पूरी मजदूरी भी नहीं देते। मैं माननीय

मंत्री जी को निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि ठेकेदारी सिस्टम को, जो इस मंत्रालय में एक रूप से विद्यमान है, जोर से दूर करने का प्रयत्न किया जाये।

अभी मैं ने भ्रष्टाचार की बात की, लेकिन आप जानते होंगे कि नई दिल्ली में धरती के नीचे नीचे पानी फैल रहा है। तूफान या जल-प्रलय क्या है कि वह केवल मनुष्य का पाप है। इस स्थिति की जांच के लिये एक कमेटी बनाई गई। पम्प के जरिये भले ही आप पानी को फँकते रहें, लेकिन नीचे ही नीचे जिस प्रकार से पानी जड़ में बैठता है, उसी प्रकार से भ्रष्टाचार भी फैलता है और जड़ में बैठता है। जहाँ सरकार उस को दूर करने का प्रयत्न करती है, वहाँ इस और भी ध्यान देना चाहिये। सब-सायल वाटर के बारे में जो प्रतिवेदन हमारे सामने आया है, उस को मैं ने पढ़ा है, लेकिन मैं कहूँगा कि सारे देश में जाने के बाद मैं इस परिणाम पर पहुँचा हूँ कि वह सिस्टम इतना डिफ़िकल्ट और खराब है कि हमें उन इंजीनियर्स और आर्किटेक्ट्स के मस्तिष्क पर दबा आती है कि वे किस प्रकार हमारे निर्माण के कार्यों को ले कर चलना चाहते हैं। जरा सी वर्षा में घुटनों से ऊपर, तागड़ी से ऊपर पानी चला जाता है। जिस जगह बनता होटल बनाया जा रहा है, पिछली वर्षा में मैं वहाँ सामने था। मैं ने देखा कि पानी उल्टा बह रहा था, जिस की वजह थी ट्रेनेज सिस्टम की खराबी। सरकार उस खराबी को किस प्रकार दूर करना चाहती है, माननीय मंत्री महोदय इस पर विचार करें।

जहाँ तक इस विभाग के कर्मचारियों की अवस्था का प्रश्न है, वह अब भी शोचनीय है। उन को कल्याणकारी सुविधायें प्राप्त नहीं हैं। उन को मिक्योरिटी ग्राफ़ सर्विस की सुविधायें प्राप्त नहीं हैं। उन के साथ व्यवहार भ्रष्टा नहीं होता है, विशेष कर क्वास फ़ोर के लोगों और बर्क-चाजर्ड स्टाफ़

के लोगों के साथ। मैं चाहूँगा कि उन को वे सुविधायें, नौकरी की सुरक्षा की सुविधायें और कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की सुविधायें प्राप्त हों और उन के साथ भ्रष्टा व्यवहार हो। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस और आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

बर्क-चाजर्ड स्टाफ़ को रेगुलर करने के लिये कुछ प्रयत्न किये गये हैं, लेकिन वे धीरे धीरे किये गये हैं। यह भ्रष्टा नहीं है। मैं जानता हूँ कि बर्क-चाजर्ड स्टाफ़ के लोगों को यह उम्मीद नहीं होती कि हमारी नौकरी ठीक चलेगी या नहीं। उन को हर समय यह डर रहता है कि हम किसी भी समय निकाल कर फँक दिये जायेंगे। जहाँ उन को रेगुलर करने की कोशिश की जा रही है, वहाँ नई सर्विस के रूप में उन को रेगुलर किया जा रहा है और उन लोगों की पंद्रह पंद्रह, बीस बीस साल की सर्विस भी इन्वल्ड नहीं की जाती है। इन अनियमितताओं और डिसपैरिटीज़ की ओर, जो बढ़ती जा रही है, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

जहाँ तक स्वीपर्ड स्टाफ़ का सम्बन्ध है, उन के लिये रहने के बर्गटर्मेंटों का प्रबन्ध नहीं है। वे ज्यादातर बर्क-चाजर्ड स्टाफ़ में हैं। उन को कैसे रेगुलर बनाया जाये, इस पर विचार करना चाहिये। उन में से काफी लोगों को अभी पिछले एक प्रायः साल में, और कुछ महीनों में भी, निकाला गया है। उन में बीसह से बीस साल तक की सर्विस के लोग हैं। सब से बड़ी दिक्कत यह है कि कुछ लोग सब-डिविजन में काम करते हैं, कुछ डिविजन में काम करते हैं, कुछ बड़े विभाग में काम करते हैं। इस प्रकार उन की सर्विस की कोई गारंटी नहीं है। मैं चाहूँगा कि उन की कटेगरी निर्धारित हो, सब-डिविजन को छोड़ कर, डिविजन को छोड़ कर, एक डिपार्टमेंट के आचार पर उन की सर्विस पक्की की जाये।

[श्री बाल्मीकी]

डायरेक्ट्रेट आफ् स्टेट्स के बारे में मुझे विशेष शिकायत है और यह बात अवश्य है कि उस का कार्य यकीनी तौर से असंतोष-जनक है। वह एकामोडेशन दे नहीं पाता है और बहुत सी डिमांड्स उस के सामने रहती हैं। जो अलाटमेंट होती है, वह धीरे-धीरे, देरी से, समझदारी से नहीं, फ़ेवरटिज्म और नेपाटिज्म के आधार पर होती है। वहां पर हल्के हल्के, बहुत ज्यादा नहीं, डिक्टेटरीशिप भी आ रही है। माननीय मंत्री जी खर्तों का जवाब दे देते हैं, लेकिन पिछले वर्षों में डायरेक्ट्रेट आफ् एस्टेट्स को अगर कोई पत्र भेजा जाता है, तो उस का जवाब नदारद होता है। सबलेटिंग भी होता है, लेकिन न उस का सब से बड़ा दोष डायरेक्ट्रेट आफ् एस्टेट्स के ऊपर है। चोर वहां भी बसते हैं। उन के आधार पर सबलेटिंग चलती है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि विशेष प्रकार से डायरेक्ट्रेट आफ् एस्टेट्स को शुद्ध करने की आवश्यकता है।

यही बात नहीं, बल्कि वहां इस प्रकार के अधिकारी बैठे हैं—मैं यह कहने के लिये तैयार हूँ कि इस प्रकार के असिस्टेंट एस्टेट आफिसर्स भी हैं, जिन के बारे में कोई व्यक्तिगत शिकायत नहीं करना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन मुझे यह कहने में डर भी डर नहीं है कि उन की वाणी में असलीलता होती है, गन्दी भाषा होती है। वे नहीं जानते कि कोई क्लास फ़ोर का आदमी है, हरिजन है, उस के साथ व्यवहारिकता की दृष्टि से किस प्रकार बात-चीत की जाये। मैं व्यक्तिगत बातें नहीं उठाना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम डिस्क्रिमिनेशन को दूर करने का प्रयत्न करते हैं, लेकिन डिस्क्रिमिनेशन डायरेक्टर आफ् एस्टेट्स में होता है। क्लास फ़ोर को जब अलाटमेंट किया जाता है, उस बकत होता है। इस प्रकार का जो डिस्क्रिमिनेशन बरता जाता है वह बन्द

होना चाहिये। साथ ही साथ जिस असलील भाषा का प्रयोग किया जाता है, वह भी नहीं होना चाहिये। इस ओर आप को सविशेष जागरूक रहने की आवश्यकता है।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि चाहे क्लास थ्री के कर्मचारी हों और चाहे क्लास फ़ोर के हों, उन को अधिक से अधिक एकामोडेशन देने का प्रयत्न आप की तरफ से होना चाहिये। जहां और हार्डसिंग के बारे में प्रोग्राम चल रहे हैं, वहां इन लोगों के लिये क्वार्टर्स बनाने के बारे में जो धीरे धीरे प्रयत्न किये जा रहे हैं, ये तेज़ होने चाहिये। जब एकामोडेशन ठीक तरह से न दिये जाने की बात आती है तो मेरा ध्यान सविशेष क्लास थ्री और क्लास फ़ोर की तरफ जाता है। उन के लिये जो प्रयत्न किये जा रहे हैं, वे ठीक प्रकार से नहीं किये जा रहे हैं। उन के लिये अधिक से अधिक रहने का, आवास का प्रयत्न किया जाना चाहिये और क्वार्टर्स उन को आसानी से मिल सकें, इस की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये।

आवास का प्रश्न है यह बड़ा ही विशाल है, बड़ा ही भयंकर प्रश्न है। मैं जानता हूँ कि इस बारे में आप ने प्रयत्न किये हैं और उस ओर हम सब का ध्यान भी गया है। लेकिन इस के बावजूद भी आवास का प्रश्न हल नहीं हो पा रहा है और इस को जल्दी हल किया जाना चाहिये। हमारे देश में विकास की योजनायें चल रही हैं आर्थिक विकास की योजनायें चल रही हैं और वे एक प्रकार से वैभव और ऐश्वर्य की योजनायें हैं। वैभव और ऐश्वर्य आदमी की शक्ति से दिखाई देता है, यह ठीक है। दूसरी ओर बड़े साथी इस को मंजूर करें या न करें लेकिन यह सच है कि जो पंचवर्षीय योजनायें चल रही हैं, आर्थिक विकास के जो प्रयत्न चल रहे हैं, उन के फलस्वरूप हल्के हल्के हमारे बेहरी

पर रौनक आने लग गई है और सम्पन्नता दिखाई देने लग गई है। लेकिन यह भी सच है कि लोगों के पास आज रहने के लिये अच्छे मकान नहीं हैं, खाने के लिये अच्छा अन्न नहीं है, पहनने के लिये वस्त्र नहीं हैं, जीवन में नित्य-प्रति की असुविधायें बढ़ती जा रही हैं, दुनिया भर की आवश्यकता की वस्तुएं नहीं मिलती हैं। आदमी का वैभव, आदमी का ऐश्वर्य उस के मकान से दिखाई देता है। उस दिशा में आप प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि नहीं कर रहे हैं। सविशेष जहां पर भी थोड़े थोड़े हल्के हल्के मकान आपने बनाये हैं, वे सभी शहरों के अंदर ही बनाये हैं। नगरों के चारों ओर ही बनाये हैं। चारों तरफ जब हम निगाह डालते हैं तो पाने हैं कि शहरों के अंदर ही या आस पास ही आपके प्रयत्न चल रहे हैं और ग्रामों की ओर बहुत कम ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। यह हमारी नीति है और हम यह चाहते हैं कि देश के अंदर ग्रामीकरण हो और उरुकी ओर हमें चाहिये कि हम विशेष ध्यान दें। यह जरूर है कि जिस प्रकार से आज ग्राम फीले हुए हैं वे बड़ा ही घिनौना दृश्य उत्पन्न करते हैं, बिल्कुल भी अच्छे नहीं हैं और आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि उनके रूप को बदला जाए। इसी सदन के पिछले मेम्बर तथा हमारे नेता माननीय पुरुषोत्तम दास जो टंडन ने यह प्रश्न उठाया था और इसको माननीय मंत्री जी के सामने रखा था और कहा था कि गांवों को इस प्रकार से फीलाया जाये कि खेतों पर उनके मकान हों, वाटिका गृह योजना चालू की जाएं। उस ओर भी आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिये। आप को चाहिये कि गांवों के रूप को आप बदलें। आपने गांवों के लिए केवल पांच करोड़ रुपया ही रखा है जो कि बहुत कम है। उदयपुर में हाउसिंग मिनिस्ट्रेंस कॉन्फ्रेंस हुई थी प्रगर वहां पर यह रिपोर्टिंग हुई थी कि जो रकम आवास के लिये रखी गई है उसको बढ़ा कर १०-१२ करोड़ कर दिया जाये। यह बात आप जानते

हैं कि सभी माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं। डेढ़ सौ करोड़ रुपये जब कुल आवास योजनाओं इत्यादि के लिये रखे गये हैं तो उसमें केवल १५-१६ करोड़ रुपया आवास के लिए रखना क्या ठीक है? मैं चाहता हूँ कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा पैसा देहातों के लिये रखा जाए और ज्यादा से ज्यादा ध्यान उधर दिया जाए। यही नहीं बल्कि ग्रामों में स्वच्छता लाने के लिये नाली खरंजों के लिये अलग धन निर्धारित होना चाहिये।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अब माननीय सदस्य खत्म करें।

श्री बाल्मीकी : अभी पन्द्रह मिनट नहीं हुए हैं।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : इस बात को माननीय सदस्य मुझ पर छोड़ दें। दो मिनट वह और ले सकते हैं।

श्री बाल्मीकी : चूंकि आप चाहते हैं कि दो मिनट में मैं खत्म कर दूँ इस वास्ते मैं संक्षेप में अपनी बात कह कर समाप्त कर दूंगा।

गन्दी बस्तियों को हटाने का प्रश्न यहां सदन में आया है। झोंपड़ियों को हटाने का प्रश्न भी उत्पन्न हुआ है। जहां तक इनका प्रश्न है देश के अन्दर गन्दी बस्तियां झोंपड़ों में मुझे कोई भेद प्रतीत नहीं होता है। इसके बारे में जो अनियमिततायें बरती जा रही हैं और साम तौर पर गन्दी बस्तियों में रहने वाले लोगों के साथ जो दुर्व्यवहार किया जाता है उस ओर मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि यह ज्यादा बन्द हो। उनको किसी प्रकार की सुविधायें नहीं मिलती हैं, पीने के पानी की सुविधायें, यूरिनल, नैट्रींग या टट्टियों की सुविधायें तथा दूसरी सुविधायें नहीं मिलती हैं। जब आप झोंपड़ियों आदि को गिराते हैं,

[श्री बाल्मीकी]

तो एक प्रकार से हमला करते हैं। फैंट्री रोड पर तथा दूसरी जगहों पर झोंपड़ियों को जब गिराया जाता है तो ऐसा मालूम होता था कि जैसे मंडीवाल पीरियड या मध्य कालीन हमला हुआ करता था वैसे ही हमला आज हो रहा है। आप अवश्य झोंपड़ियों को गिराये, उनको हटायें लेकिन इसके साथ ही साथ उनके लिये स्वच्छ वातावरण तैयार करें, मुन्दर आवास की सुविधायें उनको देने का प्रयत्न करें, उनको आलटरनेटिव एका मोडेशन दें, कम्पेसेशन दें तथा जो उनकी दूसरी आवश्यकताएँ हैं, उनको पूरा करें। यह उत्तरदायित्व सरकार का है।

अब मैं भंगियों के आवास के प्रश्न पर आता हूँ। वह भी बहुत बड़ा भयंकर प्रश्न है। आज भी इस ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है। हमारी जो राज्य सरकारें हैं वे न ग्रामों में रहने वालों के प्रश्न के बारे में और न ही दूसरी योजनाओं के बारे में कोई पग उठाती हैं, वे बिल्कुल उदासीन हैं और बिल्कुल भी ध्यान नहीं दे रही हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी अपना प्रकुश जरा तेज करें, जरा कड़ा करें। समाज के इन गिरे हुए लोगों की तरफ ध्यान जाना बहुत आवश्यक है। भंगियों के लिये आवास योजनाओं के बारे में हाउसिंग मिनिस्ट्रज कान्फ्रेंस में बराबर रिकोमेंडेशन की जाती रही है लेकिन वह काम आगे नहीं बढ़ पा रहा है और इसका कारण यह है कि राज्य सरकारें उच्च ध्यान नहीं देती हैं, उनकी ओर से उदासीन हैं। साथ ही साथ हमारी जो म्यूनिसिपैलिटीज हैं या जो कारपोरेशंस हैं, वे भी इस ओर ध्यान नहीं देती हैं। लो-इन्कम ग्रुप या गन्दी बस्तियों को हटाने की योजनाओं के अर्धन भी काम आगे नहीं बढ़ रहा है। दिल्ली को ही लीजिये। यहाँ पर आज भी भंगियों की वही पुरानी बस्तियाँ हैं और कोई नई बस्तियाँ कायम नहीं की गई हैं ना ही उन बस्तियों में कोई

सुधार हो पाया है। मैं खास तौर पर भंगियों की बात कहता हूँ। उनके तथा दूसरे चतुर्थ श्रेणी के जो कर्मचारी हैं, उनके मकान केवल बरांडे वाले नहीं होने चाहियें, एक कोठरी वाले नहीं होने चाहियें बल्कि दो कोठरी वाले मकान उनको मिलने चाहियें। उनमें नलों की, पानी की और लैट्रिज या नालियों की विशेष तौर पर सुविधा उपलब्ध होनी चाहिये। मैं सारे देश में घूमा हूँ और जहाँ कहीं भी मैं गया हूँ मैंने पाया है कि इनके मकान डम्पिंग ग्राउण्ड्स के पास हैं, लैट्रिज के पास हैं, मैला डिपोज के पास हैं। उनके जो मकान हों वे स्वच्छ जगहों पर होने चाहियें। इसके बारे में रिकोमेंडेशन आपकी है मगर राज्य सरकारों ने उस ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया है, म्यूनिसिपैलिटीज और कारपोरेशन ने ध्यान नहीं दिया है। मैं राज्य सरकारों का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि भंगियों की आवास समस्या को हल करने के लिये वे आगे बढ़ें और इस ओर विशेष ध्यान दें। यह समस्या राष्ट्रीय आधार पर हल होनी चाहिये।

Shri Punnoose: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I just want to place one important point before the House. It will be agreed on all hands that we are having a very acute housing problem. The more serious aspect of it is, in spite of our best efforts—I also agree that this Ministry has tried to do its best to solve this problem—that problem is growing year after year. That is not the fault of the Ministry. In that context, I want to place a proposal before the Ministry for consideration and acceptance as early as possible, if not here on the floor of the House today.

One of the very important steps that the Government have taken is the low income group housing loan. That loan is given to those who have got an income not exceeding Rs. 6,000 a year. That means, they belong to the middle section of our people. That loan has

to be repaid within a maximum period of 30 years. I understand that Government charge interest from the man who takes the loan at the rate of 5 per cent. The result is, a man who takes a loan of Rs. 6000 will have to pay a little more than Rs. 16,000. How does this help?

I know several cases where people driven by necessity or the modern urge to live in a nice little house, walk into this and cannot get out of it, because it is a load that is going to be there for more than a generation. It is argued that this loan is given on a no profit no loss basis. There is no profit about it; I agree. But is it not time for us to consider whether Government should not bear a certain amount of loss in this case? When foreign Governments can give us loans at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest on the consideration that we are backward, are we not to show some amount of latitude to the poorer sections of our people, especially when the housing problem is so acute? I think that this 30 years' limit should be reduced to 25 or 20 years. I do not think people will grudge it very much. But there is no justification, either financial or moral or social, to exact or extract five per cent interest from them. We can never charge more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and, under no conditions, could the Government realise more than Rs. 12,000 from those who take Rs. 8,000. It is a matter of social policy. I know the Minister cannot just get up and agree to it. He has to consider this. If that is done, it will help in a large way in the solution of the housing problem. Even if it cannot be solved, its acuteness can be reduced in this way.

The hon. Minister was then referring to the industrial housing scheme. He pointed out that there is a rule that the worker has to be put up within two miles of the factory, and that is bringing in so much of trouble. He will agree with me that the difficulties of the workers are genuine. They want a place near the factory,

probably in the town, so that without much additional expenditure they can carry on. I hope the Minister will appreciate that point. What are the government going to do? Government must examine why the workers do not like to go to some of the colonies. Possibly, it may be the absence of a market. In that case, Government should establish a market there. All these questions must be taken up from State to State and place to place and there must be co-operation between the Government, employer and employees in this regard. It is only this way that the matter can be expedited.

There is another difficulty, especially in backward States like mine. The management seriously think: why should we spend the money if we can avoid it? They feel that, at least, they can postpone it. Therefore, there must be some organisation through which each industry or each factory may be taken up for housing. The necessity for housing for particular areas, industries or factories may be discussed and decided and then some kind of compulsion may be brought on the management to make use of these loans. The housing problem has to be tackled much more earnestly because, whatever development we may register in other fields, unless we make considerable progress in this field, the vast masses of the people will not feel the impact of the progress.

Shri N. B. Maiti (Ghatal): I have been listening to the speeches of hon. Members yesterday and today. I find that several criticisms have been made regarding the working of the Ministry and they are severe criticism. It is easy to pick holes here and there and it is not difficult to find such holes, but when we consider and take the Ministry as a whole unit, we find that the Ministry has worked within its limits as best as it could.

Sir, there are three departments under the Ministry, namely, Works,

[Shri N. B. Maiti]

Housing and Supply. The Works Department, which is run by the C.P.W.D., is a department which has its activities throughout the whole country. I find it builds houses not only in Delhi and New Delhi but in far-flung parts of the country such as N.E.F.A. and Naga Hills and Tuensang district, where lakhs and lakhs of rupees are being spent. It must be said to the credit of the C.P.W.D. that they are finishing these works to the satisfaction generally of the people and the authorities concerned.

It is a very strange irony in our country that we often find thieves and robbers everywhere in the country. We do not praise where praise is due. We brush the picture all through with as grim and dark colour as we can find. That is rather injurious and harmful to the proper growth and proper development of the country. It dampens the spirit of those workers who try to do better and try to do to the best of their ability. Of course, there may be black sheep, there may be some dishonest men here and there, as they are everywhere. But, should we, therefore, condemn all the persons that we meet? Therefore, when we sit here and speak from the Parliament, from the housetop so to say, we must have some caution as to what we say.

I am glad that the Ministry has set up an organisation called the National Building Construction Corporation for the purpose of getting works done. It would be good if the work of the contractors could be eliminated as far as possible, through this Organisation. I hope it will succeed.

Then, much has been said about providing office and housing accommodation for every kind of worker under the Union Government. For decades that work was lagging behind the schedule. I believe the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry has taken up this work in right

earnest. But even if they take up the work in right earnest, it is difficult to fulfil all the works. They have got to be fulfilled, of course, in course of time, in the way in which we want to get these things done. But it must take some time. I am happy that the Minister in charge of the Ministry is keen on this point. If we take the figures from year to year and compare them, we find that every year there has been some progress in the matter of providing accommodation for offices and for living purposes. I hope that this will proceed as quickly as possible.

14 hrs.

Much has been said about the working of the Ashoka Hotel. My hon. friend, Shri Tariq criticised it to a rather bitter extent. The hon. Deputy Minister has replied to the charges. I do not think that if some military or ex-military officer or some ex-servicemen are employed there it is a thing that has to get to be condemned. The material thing is whether the organisation is working to the satisfaction of the customers and also whether it is a paying proposition. Taking those things in view I find that it is progressing. It is really a heartening thing to know from the literature that has been given that it is paying its old debts. The liabilities are becoming less and less and there has been some profit. Therefore it is working rather satisfactorily.

Of course, here I may point out one thing to the Ministry and to the authorities of the Hotel. As one of my hon. friends said yesterday, some sort of a food which is not liked in India is supplied there. I want to know whether it is correct or right.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, it is correct.

Shri N. B. Maiti: In my view there is some anomaly between the name that the hotel bears and the food that

is supplied. I do not suggest that there should be no non-vegetarian food, but I do suggest that what the majority of Indians do not like should not be provided in that hotel, if that is possible.

An Hon. Member: What will the minority do?

Shri N. B. Maiti: The minority takes these. They will have sufficient courtesy or sense of decency not to insist upon food which the majority of the people of India.....

An Hon. Member: Not the majority but an overwhelming majority.

Shri N. B. Maiti:which the overwhelming majority of the people of India does not like. I need not dilate upon this matter. India has a unique position in the international sphere by its policy of nonalignment. Even though the two parties may not like this, it has made some headway. If that is so, will it be such a very bad thing that the whole Hotel will come to rack and ruin if we do not provide or offer this kind of food? I do not think so. However, that is my personal view.

Then, regarding the housing problem, I believe during the course of the last few years much progress has been made in regard to various schemes. On one point some of my hon. friends have spoken much, namely, on the village housing project scheme. I need not add anything more to that. I am glad that in the last Housing Ministers' Conference the proposal was accepted unanimously that the provision made in the Third Five-Year Plan for the village housing project scheme should be doubled, that is, the amount should be increased by raising it to about Rs. 30 crores. I hope the Planning Commission would pay proper attention to it and would remove the plank on which many of us, Members of Parliament, do stand and speak as much as we can, not to the bitter end. I need not say that villages constitute a larger portion of

our country and that the village people also should get some better treatment than they are getting now. I hope that in the working of the village housing project scheme some changes will be brought about so as to give more satisfaction to a greater number of people.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri N. B. Maiti: In one or two minutes I shall finish, Sir.

In regard to supply, I am very happy that more and more indigenous materials are being purchased and procured by the Supply Department so that the industry of the country may get a proper share in development. I hope that some of the indigenous industries, particularly, *khadi*, will get far greater encouragement at the hands of the Ministry.

With these words, I support the Demands made by the Ministry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am sorry, I cannot accommodate others.

There is one thing which I would like to say before the hon. Minister begins. I find that ten hon. Members in all, besides the hon. Deputy Minister, have spoken on these Demands. They are Sarvashri Tagamani, P. R. Patel, Mohan Swarup, A. M. Tariq, Jagdish Awasthi, M. B. Thakore, S. M. Banerjee, Balmiki, Punnoose and N. B. Maiti. Out of them I find that Sarvashri Tangamani, Jagdish Awasthi and Maiti, who has just spoken, are here. Three hon. Members out of ten are here and seven have gone away. I have been noticing that as soon as an hon. Member finishes his speech, he just tries to go away at once. In certain cases I have found that the hon. Member does not show

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as much respect as I shall now take up to resume his seat after he has finished his speech. He just picks up his papers when his speech is finished and goes away as if he is on a public platform. This is a practice which should never be encouraged. We should show some respect to the House. At least, the hon. Members should resume their seats when they have finished their speeches. Even that courtesy is not shown. When the hon. Members are not anxious, I should say, to hear the reply, how can they expect the hon. Ministers to give them so much attention? Often, a complaint is made when the hon. Minister is not present that the hon. Minister is absent or he is not attending or he is talking to somebody else. But here we find that hon. Members do not remain after making their speeches. They are only interested in saying what they like but not in hearing the reply. Now, the hon. Minister.

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री (गुड़गांव) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, मैं एक मिनट में एक बात निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अब तो वक्त नहीं है ।

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : मैं केवल एक मिनट में अपनी बात निवेदन कर दूंगा ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : चाहे मैं इजाजत न भी दूँ तब भी आप बोलेंगे ?

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : मैं आपकी इजाजत लेकर ही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : लेकिन आपने तो बोलना शुरू कर दिया ।

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : मंत्री महोदय अवश्य इस पर विचार करेंगे कि क्या गांधीवादी सरकार के तत्वावधान में चलने वाले ग्रशोका होटल में गोमांस का परोसा जाना उचित है ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य से मैं यह भी कह दूँ कि उनको बोलने के लिये मैंने इसलिये नहीं बुलाया कि वह भी अगले दिन स्पीच खत्म करके उसी वक्त चले गये थे ।

Shr K. C. Reddy: I have listened with keen attention to the several hon. Members who are participated in the debate. They have raised several issues, and have made many points. My colleague the Deputy Minister has already covered several departments under the charge of this Ministry, and he has also answered some points made by some of the hon. Members.

While I am very grateful for the complimentary references made to the working of this Ministry by some hon. Members, I have also taken note of the criticisms that have been levelled against certain aspects of the working of this Ministry. I should like to assure the hon. Members who have made such criticisms that we shall note them, profit by them and see what could be done, wherever possible, to meet those points of criticism.

Another preliminary matter that I would like to mention is this. I find from the notes that I have taken that hundreds of points have been made by hon. Members, most of them being minor points; of course, some of them are very major, and I find that it will be physically impossible for me to refer to even a major part of them. At the same time, I would like to say that much of the information that has been asked by some hon. Members in the course of their speeches has already been made available to them in the course of answering several questions on the floor of this House or on other appropriate occasions. So, I hope I shall not be misunderstood if I do not make use of this occasion to give the very same information that we have provided to this House on several earlier occasions.

I shall now take up certain subjects and refer very briefly to certain

major aspects of those subjects. In respect of housing, it has been pointed out by and large that the progress that has been made in the administration of the various schemes under the control of this Ministry has been satisfactory more or less. In this connection, I would like to point out that as against the Plan allocation of Rs. 84 crores, on the basis of reappraisal, the total expenditure on various housing schemes, including those that have been newly introduced by the Ministry, namely what are called non-Plan schemes, is about Rs. 90 crores. It is no doubt true that so far as the Plan allocations are concerned, as against Rs. 84 crores, there has been a shortfall, but if we take the overall result into consideration, it is my submission that the amount that has been spent on housing by this Ministry has been larger than what was contemplated at the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan. Also, I would like to make use of this occasion to point out that as against the growing need for more and more housing in the country, we should not get away with the impression that what is being spent by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply is the only amount that is being spent for housing in our country. I think I have made this clear on a previous occasion, but I would like to refer to it very briefly once again.

There are several other Ministries which are engaged in this important task of providing houses for their employees, such as the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and, I think, even the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and the Ministry of Rehabilitation; in addition to these various Ministries, there are several State organisations also, such as the State corporations and companies which have got housing schemes, and which have taken up those schemes and have implemented them. It should also be remembered

that even the State Governments have got their own housing schemes. In addition to all this effort by the State Governments and other corporations like those in the public sector, the private sector also has played a very major part and should play a very important part in the provision of more and more houses in the country.

On a rough calculation, it has been found that during the Second Five Year Plan, round about Rs. 1000 crores have been invested on housing in our country. During the Third Five Year Plan, a rough estimate is that about Rs. 1,200 crores will be invested for housing in the country as a whole. I am just mentioning this only to point out that quite a sizable effort is being made in this respect of this very important developmental activity. I am conscious at the same time that there is great need for much more dynamic effort in this direction.

Shri Ranga: There is greater need to make coal, cement and other commodities available.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I shall come to that.

Various Members have suggested that the allocations for housing during the Second Plan have to be appreciably increased, particularly, regarding rural housing. Several Members have spoken about the utterly deplorable condition of rural housing in our country and the need for making a very much larger amount available for rural housing in the Third Plan. My colleague has referred to certain aspects of the rural housing problem. I would only like to point out that it is recognised that it is a very stupendous problem in our country. On a rough calculation, even if 50 million houses are not to be rebuilt completely or repaired, and even if it be a much smaller number than that, the investment that would be necessary in order to meet the colossal demand that there is in the country in the rural areas, will come to

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about Rs. 3,000 crores to Rs. 4,000 crores, on the basis of about Rs. 1000 or Rs. 15,000 per house. Where are we to find all this money from? That is a very important question. That is why we have to keep in mind the resources position, the priorities that we have to accord, what we can do at any point of time, and what the proper perspective should be with which we have to look at this important problem.

That is why what has now been introduced by this Ministry in respect of rural housing, namely what is called as the Village Housing Project Scheme is, if I may say so, more or less a pilot project; it is not supposed to be a very ambitious project to cover a wide area in our country or to meet the maximum or the major part of the demands of the country in this direction. It is only a pilot project, and it is not intended to be the final thing. The principle is one of aided self-help. Ultimately, the economic strength of the villagers has to be increased. All the various developmental activities that are going on in the country as a result of our Plan programmes must result in increasing the economic strength and in increasing the income of the rural population, and as a result of this, they will be able to plough back the income that they derive thereby, or some portion of it, into this very important house-building activity. That is the only way in which we have to solve this problem ultimately on a very satisfactory basis.

Then, it has been said that even the meagre allocation that has been made for housing has not been fully made use of. It has to be remembered that this village housing project scheme was introduced only about three and a half years ago, and the first two years were taken up more or less in completing the preliminaries. The various State Governments were very busy at this task, and that explains why during the first two or two

and a half years after the introduction of the scheme, only about Rs. 180 lakhs to Rs. 190 lakhs were made use of by the various State Governments, but in the current year, it is heartening to see that about Rs. 180 lakhs have been drawn, that is to say as much as what was drawn during the previous two and a half years. I have every reason to believe that during the coming years the scale of utilisation by the State Governments for this village housing scheme will be much higher and on a much more satisfactory basis.

It is in this context that I would like to point out that it is not so much the defects in the scheme—there may be defects in the scheme and it may be susceptible of further improvement—that are responsible for the slow progress of the scheme and inadequate utilisation of funds under the scheme by some State Governments. What explains the fact that some States have done exceedingly well? For example, the Rajasthan Government was allotted 200 villages; but it has selected 250. Then again take the Orissa Government, the UP Government and the Mysore Government. These Governments have asked for larger allocations than were provided for in the plan and have asked permission from our Ministry to select more villages than they were authorised to select according to the scheme. It only shows that they have been more earnest and more enthusiastic about it than perhaps some other State Governments. I do not want to criticise the other State Governments who have not made similar use of these allocations; they might have had their own difficulties and are now trying to overcome them and show better results in the years ahead of us.

In this connection, the question has been raised as to how it is that no subsidy is given in respect of rural housing whereas it is given to industrial housing, slum clearance and some

other schemes of that kind. The difficulty has been explained by my hon. colleague and I do not want to cover the same ground over again. I would however like to point out that we are trying our very best to see if we cannot introduce an element of subsidy in this scheme, but I am not quite sure what the result of our efforts will be. As I said earlier, it is a question for the Planning Commission to decide in the first instance. The question of resources and all those things will have to be looked into before a final decision could be arrived at in this very important matter.

At the same time, I would mention that it is not as if there is no subsidy element at all in any of the schemes that are in the field for rural housing. I would cite, for example, the grants that are contemplated by the Ministry of Home Affairs for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes. There is an element of subsidy in housing schemes relating to them. Then there is the scheme of the Commerce and Industry Ministry for providing houses in villages for weavers. I think there is an element of subsidy there also. Then again, under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, there is a scheme for housing of agricultural labourers, about whom an hon. Member, Shri Patil, spoke the other day. There is a scheme under which they have to be settled on some land; there are some other aspects of the scheme. There also an element of subsidy is there for the houses that would be put up for the agricultural labourers.

So though the village housing scheme this Ministry is administering does not contain an element of subsidy, the other schemes that are intended for the benefit of the rural areas do contain an element of subsidy. As I said, with regard to the village housing project itself, we shall try and see if we cannot provide an element of subsidy, but I am not quite sure whether our efforts will be successful.

Shri Ranga: It was in this context that earlier I interrupted and asked whether instead of getting the houses constructed through the State Governments with the help of contractors, it would not be better to make the subsidy to the agricultural workers to construct the houses themselves.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It was clearly pointed out that the houses being built in the rural areas are being built by the villagers themselves on their own. The question of the State Government or the CPWD or some other agency coming into the picture to construct the houses does not arise. We have considered the question of subsidy, whether we can give it in the form of cash or something else. But that issue will arise only after a firm decision is taken to give a subsidy. Before that, it is very hypothetical and I do not want to pursue this matter any further.

With regard to the other schemes, there has been very commendable progress. For example, take the low income group housing scheme. Shri Punnoose suggested that the interest on loans under this scheme should be reduced. He said that 2½ per cent should be the rate of interest. It should be remembered that even on the basis of 5 per cent interest on which the loans carry at present, this scheme is extremely popular, and it has become a problem for us to meet the various demands of the State Governments even on the present lines. We have also to bear in mind that Government themselves have to raise loans at 4 per cent or 4½ per cent interest, whatever it may be, and it would not, I submit, be a practical proposition to reduce the rate of interest for loans to be given under the low income group housing scheme.

Some points have been made about slum clearance. Shri S. M. Banerjee was referring to Kanpur. He is probably aware that two slum clearance schemes have been sanctioned in Kanpur at a cost of, I think, about Rs. 180 lakhs and they are being implemented. Recently, I believe

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another scheme has also been sanctioned.

He also raised the question of implementation of the Asoke Sen Committee's recommendations in respect of slum clearance. I would like to inform him that most of the recommendations of that Committee have been accepted by Government and it is our endeavour, through the State Governments which are the agencies for implementation of these various schemes, to see that all those recommendations which have been accepted are duly implemented.

As usual, my hon. friend, Shri Balmiki, referred to the case of sweepers and scavengers and the need for some special provision for encouraging the putting up of more houses for them. He will be glad to know that a direction has been given to State Governments to the effect that wherever slum clearance schemes are taken up, they should bear in mind the needs of scavengers and sweepers and should select such areas where there are a large number of these people so that their very pressing requirements may be met. He will also be happy to know that in addition to the 37½ per cent. subsidy given by the Centre and 25 per cent. subsidy given by State Governments under the scheme which is being worked out under the Ministry of Home Affairs so far as the sweepers and scavengers are concerned, there is the possibility of another 12½ per cent. subsidy, so much so that the total amount of subsidy for houses for sweepers and scavengers will go up to the very appreciable figure of 75 per cent.

So there are all these incentives provided, and I hope in future years there will be very satisfactory progress in the matter of provision of houses for the sweepers and scavengers.

श्री बाल्मीकी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय :

मैं आपकी अनुमति से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि उपमंत्री महोदय या मंत्री महोदय ने

जो उत्तर दिया और आप जो उत्तर दे रहे हैं, उनके मुझे पूरा सन्तोष है लेकिन उधर राज्यों में सरकारों और म्युनिसिपैलिटियों द्वारा कुछ भी काम नहीं होता है। होम मिनिस्ट्री से मकान बनाने के लिये ग्राम हरिजनों को जो सहायता मिलती है, भंगियों को उसका लाभ नहीं हो पा रहा है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आनरेबुल मेम्बर को तो तसल्ली है, वे आराम से बैठे रहें।

Shri K. C. Reddy: This interruption by the hon. Member enables me to refer to a very important point. I think yesterday also one hon. Member said that the States are not doing well, they are slow-going and they have to be—I do not know if the words were actually used—pulled up, and the Central Government should play the role of a dictator from here. On the last occasion, I made it very clear that the State Governments are very responsible organisations, responsible to their legislatures, and we must expect them to do their utmost in regard to these important fields of activity. Personally, I believe that the more there is of decentralisation the better it will be, and the Central Government should not gather unto themselves, into their own hands, dictatorial powers and try to dictate matters to State Governments. That would be a very undesirable thing to do.

Shri Tangamani: Will States who have fully used up the funds be encouraged further, if necessary?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, that is so. In fact, we have made re-appropriations from time to time. Where State Governments have made use of certain funds which have been placed at their disposal and have asked for more, we have always tried to re-appropriate, within certain limits, and give them more funds.

I was saying that our policy has been entirely in the other direction, that

is to say, to give the States more and more autonomy, to give them more elbow-space within which they could act according to their own discretion, after our having laid down the broad aspects of the schemes. After providing the framework and the funds, it is our policy to give them more and more autonomy in order not to fetter their discretion, in order to make them utilise their funds more speedily without looking up for every small thing to the Central Government. Also when our officers, my colleague or I, go to the various States we meet the State Government Ministers and officials and review the progress of each scheme and make such suggestions as are necessary in order that better results may be achieved. All this we do. Beyond that, it is not desirable that the State Governments should be dictated or compelled to do this or that. That will not be a desirable thing at all.

I would like now to take up the subject of public works and the CPWD. I was very happy to find on this occasion that while there have been very strong criticisms as before of the working of the CPWD, of the prevalence of malpractices and corruption, by some Members, there were two or three hon. Members who gave unconditional chits, as it were, of the good work of the CPWD. My hon. friend Mr. Thakore yesterday and today Mr. Balmiki, said very fine things about the CPWD. That is a somewhat relieving feature.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Perhaps, the hon. Minister has not followed everything that was said by Mr. Balmiki.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am referring to Mr. Maiti, I am sorry. I would like only to say this that the CPWD is doing a very difficult job in a manner that deserves our encouragement and commendation. The pace of construction programme is going up in the country. As against last year's expenditure of Rs. 25 crores this

year's expenditure would be about Rs. 30 crores. They have to build all kinds of buildings,—office buildings, residential buildings, schools, colleges, hospitals, research laboratories, godowns, runways, and so on and so forth, a hundred and one sort of buildings, and by and large they have discharged their duties very satisfactorily.

Here in the capital, Delhi,—I think one hon. Member referred to it—the Buddha Jayanti Park has been laid exceedingly well and has elicited commendations and praise from several quarters. There are also other buildings which have been put up in record time. I do not want to go for back, five or six years. There is, for example, the Vigyan Bhavan. It will be a surprising thing for hon. Members to know that the whole building was put up in eleven months. It has stood well. No doubt, certain rectifications had to be made later on. So also the Asoka Hotel, though it was not done by the C.P.W.D., it was put up in record time. Today there are three or four buildings which are being put up on a very satisfactory basis and in record time. I am referring to the Rabindra Bhavan at the end of the Ferozeshah Road—how nicely and how quickly the building is coming up. Then there are the headquarters of the World Health Organisation on the Indraprastha Estate. That is coming up very well. There are so many instances—I can literally quote hundreds—where work is going on smoothly and according to time-schedule, though, of course, I am ready to admit there are cases where there has been some delay. We are constantly watchful in order to locate these delays, why these delays have occurred, and what we can do to avoid them. By and large, the C.P.W.D. have done good work.

In this connection, I would also like to mention the exceedingly good work done in the border areas, the roads they have built there, the outposts they have put up for military purposes at inaccessible heights, at altitudes of 10,000 and 18,000 feet. All

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these things are not known to the public. I do not want to go into details with regard to these matters, but the work they have done in the Sikkim, NEFA and other areas has been exceedingly hard in very difficult terrain and they have done a good job of it.

This does not mean that everything is all right. In fact, as I said on the last occasion, I myself am a very severe critic of this Department, the C.P.W.D., in good faith in order to see that better work is done, work is done more speedily and more satisfactorily.

I now come to the next important aspect in regard to the C.P.W.D. It has been said, this time also, as on former occasions, that there are considerable malpractices and corruption in this Department, that this Department is reeking with corruption and that something must be done to put an end to this. My earnest appeal to the House is that we should take a balanced view of things. If there is a dark spot in a picture we should not characterise the whole picture to be dark. There may be a few dark spots, but you cannot call the whole picture dark. The very nature of the work of the C.P.W.D., it should be realised, offers greater scope for corruption than perhaps other Departments. There may be one or two other departments of that kind, but there is greater scope here because of the nature of the work, contacts with the contractors and so on and so forth. There is great scope for corruption which is no doubt true. It is because of this reason that several steps have been taken in the Ministry from time to time in order to prevent these malpractices, in order to minimise them, in order to eradicate them and in order to show better results from year to year.

I would like to take a few minutes of the time of the House to give in detail some of the steps we have taken and propose to take in order to

arrest, in order to minimise corruption.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): You do not propose to root it out?

Shri K. C. Reddy: That is what we want to do. That is our objective. We have to start work towards that very desirable end. Maybe it may take some time. But that is our objective.

Shri Jaganatha Rao (Koraput): First control and then eradicate.

Shri K. C. Reddy: As hon. Members may be aware, in 1955 a Vigilance Unit was started in the Ministry under the charge of a Deputy Secretary. This was followed by the setting up of Vigilance Units in all the Attached and Subordinate offices under the Ministry. The largest such unit is in the C.P.W.D. which consists of a Superintending Engineer (Vigilance), 4 Engineer Officers (Executive Engineers) and 2 Assistant Engineers. Eradication of corruption is sought to be achieved by punitive as well as preventive action.

So far as punitive action is concerned, the first step is to detect irregularities, malpractices and corruption. For this purpose, all complaints received in the Ministry are investigated. Even anonymous and pseudonymous complaints are duly investigated. The Special Police Establishment are of considerable assistance in this process, as they have the machinery for effective investigation of cases relating to bribery and corruption. Also, Sir, in the Ministry proper a special cell called the Chief Technical Examiner's cell was set up in 1957. It has proved of immense value in detecting irregularities and malpractices. I do not want to give the figures as to how many complaints were received during last three years, how many were investigated, how many were found to be true on investigation and what

disciplinary action was taken in these cases. I think most of this information is already available in the Administration Reports and I would like to invite the attention of hon. Members to this.

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): After all these efforts have been made, what is the number of detections they have been able to make of corruption cases?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It was with regard to this that I said that the information is available in the Annual Reports put up by the Ministry. Since the hon. Member has raised this question I would like to give the figures.

The number of complaints found true on investigation in 1958 was 390, as against 938 complaints received; 242 in 1959 as against 565 complaints received; and 346 in 1960 as against 692 complaints received. The number of complaints as a result of which disciplinary action was taken was 90 in 1958, 49 in 1959 and 65 in 1960. I would also like to inform the House that the punishments that are given in the case of officers who have been found guilty of malpractices of corruption range up to dismissals. In fact, only recently, eight days ago three officers were dismissed from the C.P.W.D., one Executive Engineer, one Assistant Engineer and one Clerk.

Shri Ranga: Poor fellows!

Shri K. C. Reddy: The number of officers who were under suspension during 1960-61 was 80, out of whom 17 were gazetted officers, including one Deputy Director-General, one Director, one Deputy Director and one Assistant Director of the D.G.S. & D., four Executive Engineers, eight Assistant Engineers of the C.P.W.D., and one Assistant Manager of the Government of India Press, New Delhi.

During the current year, one Deputy Director of the D.G.S. & D., one Executive Engineer, one Assistant

Engineer and one Clerk of the C.P.W.D. were dismissed from service.

I may also say in reply to the point raised by one hon. Member, Shri Mohan Swarup, that in order to reduce the scope for corruption and malpractices, a close watch is maintained on the acquisition and disposal of movable and immovable properties by officers, appointments secured by close relatives of officers in firms with whom they have official dealings, and all suspicious cases are thoroughly investigated, very often with the assistance of the Special Police Establishment.

In order to conduct a continuous concurrent technical audit of works, a C.T.E. organisation was set up in the Ministry, independently of the Chief Engineer in 1957. I have already said about this. What I would like to say now is that it is not merely examination after a work is completed, but the examination and inspection take place when the works are in progress, that is site inspection etc., a point which Shri Tangamani made. This organisation has done very valuable work, uncovering a number of cases of sub-standard work, over-payments and other irregularities. As a result, considerable recoveries of overpayment from contractors have been made, and disciplinary action taken against officers found at fault, besides rectificatory action about the defects noticed on the works. Since the inception of this organisation, the total amount of over-payments detected, which has been accepted by the C.P.W.D., is Rs. 19,12,439 of which Rs. 5,03,490 has been recovered. As regards the recovery of the balance, steps are being taken. Also, during this period, 53 cases were reported by the C.T.E. for departmental action against erring officers. As a result, 41 officers, including ten Executive Engineers, have been punished.

This is on the punitive side. So far as preventive action is concerned, there also we have taken certain specific and definite steps. For

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example, to check the incidence of malpractices and corruption a number of steps have been taken for improving the quality of supervision, inspection and tightening up of procedures. The more important among these measures I may briefly mention. These measures relate, in the C.P.W.D., to the laying down of time-schedules for the payment of bills of contractors, proper checking of stores at the time of handing over and taking over of charge by an officer, prohibiting Engineer Officers of the Government from working as contractors within two years of their retirement without prior sanction of the Government, prohibiting contractors who have their relatives employed in the C.P.W.D. between the ranks of Superintending Engineer and Assistant Engineer from tendering for works in the C.P.W.D. circles wherein such officers are working, tightening of procedures regarding muster-rolls, and so on. This is the preventive action that we have decided to take.

In addition to all this, though we were not dissatisfied about the results of all this action—they could not be deemed to be unsatisfactory—still, with a view to secure better results, with a view to see that the scope for malpractice etc. should be reduced further and in order to control corruption, on the basis of the assurance I gave the House on the last occasion, a special expert committee has been constituted in the Ministry to assess the results that have been achieved so far, to investigate the procedures followed in these cases and to see what further steps will have to be taken or can be taken in order to secure better results. This committee is currently sitting, and the public also have been invited to offer their valuable suggestions for the consideration of the Committee and to help the committee in formulating their recommendations.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Is this committee a committee of officials?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Of experts.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Are they prepared to associate Members of Parliament with them?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I mentioned about it. This is an expert committee. This is a departmental committee, as I said on another occasion. But I would like to make use of this opportunity to welcome the maximum co-operation particularly from hon. Members of this House and the other House. I would request them to send their suggestions to this committee, to say whatever they have got to say and to suggest whatever steps they would like the committee to consider and take. I would welcome the valuable suggestions of the Members of this honourable House. But so far, in response to the appeal made by the committee through the press, only seven Members of Parliament have favoured the committee with their suggestions. I think only three Members from this House and four Members of the Rajya Sabha have taken the trouble to make concrete suggestions. Even now it is not too late. I will ask them to give their valuable suggestions in regard to this matter.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Since he is making an appeal on the floor of the House, may I say that at least some Members will feel that it is derogatory for Members of Parliament to send suggestions to a departmental committee when they cannot be sure whether they will be considered and action taken on them?

Shri K. C. Reddy: If I may submit, this is looking at the thing from a very wrong angle. There is no question of prestige in this matter. When some good work is being done by any committee I do not think it will be *intra dig* for hon. Members to give their suggestions.

Shri C. K. Nair (Outer Delhi): When it is a question of eradication of corruption what is the meaning in

having only an expert committee? Corruption is not confined to experts alone!

Shri K. C. Reddy: The hon. Member has misunderstood the position completely. The technicalities involved, the procedures that are in the field, how they have to be changed, the technical aspects, with regard to all these things it is only for the experts to know about them. However eminent we may be in this House, it is only they who can say on these matters.

Then I would like to refer to one other matter with respect to... (Interruption).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Experts of interruption, not of corruption!

Shri K. C. Reddy: Reference has been made that the contractual agency is not a desirable agency and that it should be done away with. On a previous occasion I said that various committees that had gone into this question at various points of time, not only in this Ministry but in the Ministries of Defence and Railways, found that the contractual agency by itself *ab initio* was not bad; but what is required is that the defects attendant on such a system should be located and removed. It is not as if when things are done departmentally, everything will be above-board and that there will be no scope for corruption. It is not as if one can be very sure about it. Anyway, we have to depend on contractors, good contractors, for execution of many of our works. Recently the step that has been taken by setting up the National Building Construction Corporation has been widely welcomed and it has been suggested that it should be given more and more work, that it should be encouraged to take up larger numbers of works.

Shri Tangamani: Let them not engage sub-contractors.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is our desire to give the maximum encouragement to the National Building Construction

Corporation. At the same time we do not want to show any favouritism to this Corporation by way of awarding contracts to them without reference to the tenders that might be received or without reference to other important aspects. I would like to say this that the National Building Construction Corporation for the moment is intended to supplement the various agencies that we have in the field for the execution of work and not to supplant immediately the contractual agency.

We have also taken a decision to encourage co-operatives, for example. Wherever we come across good and efficient co-operatives we have decided to award them works, without calling for tenders, up to a limit of Rs. 10,000. We are also encouraging voluntary agencies which are above-board. Reference was made to the Bharat Sevak Samaj yesterday. I do not think it is one-tenth as bad as the hon. Member who referred to it made out. They are doing good work by and large. We are also encouraging organisations like that or any other organisation with a similar non-profit motive who will come forward to take up the works and who have got the necessary resources and equipment.

Another important matter that I would like to refer to is in respect of reduction in the costs of construction of buildings. The National Buildings Organisation which we have set up some time ago in the Ministry are constantly going into the various problems connected with the costs, especially of buildings, the materials to be used and so on and so forth.

With regard to the necessity for reducing the cost of buildings, there are no two opinions. It is being done continuously and the House will be glad to hear that the multi-storeyed buildings for example, that have been put up by the C.P.W.D. in recent years have been built to revised specifications and they have incorporated several recommendations made by the National Buildings Organisation. For example, reducing the

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height of walls, thickness of walls or reducing the verandah space. In fact, the effective space in some of the multi-storeyed buildings that we have put up in recent times is 65 per cent whereas, for example, in the Secretariat and other buildings the effective space is only 35 per cent and 40 per cent. This way we are trying to make the buildings more economical and functional. It will be of interest to the House to know that the Selected Buildings Project Team which has been set up by the Planning Commission, after having gone carefully into the cost of construction of the multi-storeyed buildings put up by the C.P.W.D. and other agencies, have come to the conclusion that the cost of construction of these multi-storeyed buildings constructed by the C.P.W.D. is the lowest. So, we are constantly keeping in mind this very important factor.

With regard to residential buildings also, though there may be some defects here and there—some Members have referred to them—the cost of construction of these buildings today, in spite of the high cost of the building materials such as steel and cement, is about the same unit-wise as it used to be many years ago; and this has been possible because of the revised specifications that we have introduced and also the adoption of certain recommendations made by the National Buildings Organisation.

In this connection, the House will be glad to know about the performance of the Hindustan Housing Factory. The Hindustan Housing Factory has a long chequered history. But, for the last two or three years, it has turned the corner as it were and it is making fairly satisfactory profits. But my desire to refer to the Hindustan Housing Factory in this context is that they have succeeded in introducing into the market certain articles like prestressed concrete, prefabricated components for roofing purposes and other purposes which are becoming exceedingly popular. For example,

the Hindustan Housing Factory today have got considerable orders for prestressed concrete electrical poles as their cost is much lower and they are easy to maintain. This is something which has been done by the Hindustan Housing Factory which is very gratifying. They have supplied prefabricated materials for the roof of the Okhla Industrial Estate.

Recently, prefabricated components for 200 milk booths were made in the Hindustan Housing Factory. These milk booths could be set up, one a day or one in two days. The demand from the Education Ministry for putting up mobile schools has been increasing. There was an order to put up 15 such schools from these prefabricated materials; 13 have been constructed. And, there is demand for still more from the Education Ministry, to set up more and more mobile schools. These can be assembled in a month's time; they are much better than the tented accommodation in which the schools have to work all these years. These are some of the ways in which the researches and recommendations of National Buildings Organisation have been adopted.

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Ujjain): May I know whether the main plant is working?

Shri K. C. Reddy: We are producing in the factory foam concrete materials.

Shri Tangamani: If this Hindustan Housing Factory is doing so well, may I know the industrial relations there, the relations between the employees and the management and may I also know whether there has been any report by the Auditor about the way stores have been kept; whether this efficiency is being transplanted to other private sectors?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have no such information. If there is any information in the possession of the hon.

Member, I would be only too glad to investigate that.

It was also said, the other day, by Shri Tangamani that there is some amount of rowdyism. I do not know wherefrom he got this information. But, so far as I am concerned, my information is that the employer-employees relation in that factory are exceedingly cordial and that is one of the factors which was contributed to the successful working of the factory and the showing of profits.

Shri Tangamani: Greater incentives are required for the workers.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I would now like to take up some aspects of the work-charged establishment. This has a very long history as Shri Tangamani knows. Most of his cut motions have reference to this work-charged establishment. I would like here briefly to recapitulate what we have been able to do in the last 3 or 4 years in respect of this work-charged establishment.

In 1957, as the House is aware, it was decided that persons in Work-charged Establishment of the C.P.W.D. whose duties were essentially non-industrial would be transferred to Regular (Classified) Establishment. As a result, nearly 1,900 workers were found eligible for transfer to the regular establishment and were given the option. Out of these, nearly 1,400 have actually been transferred to the regular establishment in accordance with their option: This transfer of non-industrial category has now become the model for all other departments engaging work-charged staff.

Then confirmation was also a point which was raised by Shri Tangamani. It was also decided in 1957 that permanent posts will be created in each category on workcharged establishment and persons confirmed against these posts. As a result, 3,839 permanent posts were created and the eligibility of workers for confirma-

tion against these posts is being investigated, and so far nearly 2,600 workers have been found eligible for confirmation. Nearly 500 workers have actually been declared permanent against these posts, with effect from 1st April, 1958.

I would like to tell Shri Tangamani that there have been certain difficulties in issuing confirmation orders in respect of all those cases which have been found eligible for confirmation, because of medical examination, where medical examination, has not already taken place and police verifications and things like that. But I would like to point out that these confirmation orders may be issued say within one or two or three months hence. But the point that has got to be remembered is this, that these confirmation orders will have effect from 1st April, 1958. That being the case, if there is a delay of 3, 4 or even 5 months before all these confirmations actually take place, there is nothing that the workcharged establishment would lose thereby.

Orders have issued regarding grant of compensatory allowance to work-charged staff in difficult areas on the analogy of the regular establishment.

The workcharged staff have been made eligible for travelling allowance and Leave Travel Concession as are admissible to regular government servants.

From January 1961, workcharged staff have become entitled to 3 National holidays plus 13 effective Public holidays, instead of 10 (all inclusive) which they were entitled to previously.

The Liberalised Pension Rules have been made applicable to the work-charged staff with effect from 18th November, 1960. The existing incumbents will be given option to elect the new pension rules. Formerly only a restricted pension and gratuity scheme was applicable to the work-charged establishment. Steps have been taken to tighten the supervision

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over the administration of work-charged establishment, maintenance of their service records prescription of proper recruitment rules and yard stick for creation of new establishments. Additional residential accommodation had been earmarked for allotment to the workcharged staff in Delhi. In addition to this, several other orders have been issued and I do not want to tire the House by enumerating them; there are quite a large number of them.

15 hrs.

A categorisation committee has been constituted to go into the question of proper classification of workers into highly skilled, skilled, semi-skilled and un-skilled categories, and to allocate the appropriate pay scales to each of these categories. This committee will also go through all anomalies resultant of wrong classification and overlapping functions of the various categories. This committee will review the entire structure of industrial workers of the C.P.W.D. and will suggest changes which will tone up the administration. In this connection, I may assure Shri Tangamani that the recognised labour unions in the field will certainly be consulted about the various matters. The categorisation committee will consult them also and if the workers want to submit and memoranda that will also be given consideration. There is also an *ad hoc* committee which was formed in 1958 to implement the main decisions of transfer of non-industrial workers to regular establishment and creation of permanent posts in workcharged establishment. It is now busy with the difficult work of rectification of all service rolls of workcharged staff, and also the work of confirmation against 3,839 permanent posts created in 1958.

There are other matters also relating to the work-charged staff and I would like to say that during the last 3½ years considerable time has been

spent in tacking the various issues that were raised by the unions. I do not think that the progress that has so far been achieved can be deemed to be unsatisfactory. There are several more things that have got to be done and the hon. Member Shri Tangamani has brought to our notice by his cut motions several other issues. Constant attention will be given and special efforts will be made to resolve the other difficulties also.

Shri Tangamani: Have you got anything to say about the Directorate of Estates?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I will now come to the question of accommodation for the Government servants and the Directorate of Estates. At the out-set, I would like to say that a very strong and sweeping condemnation was made by my hon. friend, Shri Balmiki, and he said that there was corruption, favouritism and nepotism. It has absolutely no basis whatsoever. Allotment of accommodation is made by the Directorate of Estates in accordance with well-laid down and definite rules. There are special accommodation committees and there are representatives of the other Ministries also in it. To say that there is favouritism and nepotism and things of that kind is certainly not justified. There may be a mistake here and there or some miscarriage of justice in some cases. But on that basis to make a sweeping generalisation is hardly proper. Wherever there are priority sanctions or out of turn sanctions, these cases come up to the level of the Minister. It is only after examining the justification or otherwise of such allotments that final orders are passed.

The number of houses available to the Government servants at the beginning of the First Plan period was about 11,000 or so. By steady construction activities and programmes, the number is now in the neighbourhood of 30,000 units as

against 70,000 Central Government employees in Delhi. There is much leeway to make up; that is admitted. The proposal is to put up about 13,000 houses in the Third Plan period. It is not yet finalised. I may also add that most of these houses which are being constructed are for Government employees in lower salary scales and only very few houses are being put up for the higher officers. It is the well-declared policy of the Government that the available finances should be made use of for putting up houses for lower category people. During the last five years we have been able to put up more and more houses for class IV officers, work-charged staff and for officers drawing less than Rs. 500. This policy will be kept in view, and the efforts of the Government will be in that direction.

Certain difficulties were pointed out about the officers who come to Delhi for the first time but have put in a number of years of service in other parts of the country. There are officers who come to Delhi, go away for some time and then come back again. About the latter category, service in Delhi in previous years also will be counted for the purpose of fixing priority dates; orders have been passed in respect of that. With regard to the larger issue of giving priorities on the basis of the length of service in any part of the country, I submit that this is one of the recommendations of the Chanda Committee which went into these matters pertaining to accommodation and that recommendation, as also the other recommendations, are under consideration.

I have very little time left, Sir and I shall briefly refer to some other points made. Shri Banerjee referred to the families to be evicted from Minto Road area on account of the construction of the Janata Hotel. That site has been welcomed by everybody. The construction of the Janata Hotel has been delayed because of various difficulties, one being the selec-

tion of a proper site. After a good deal of effort, this site has been selected finally—between Old Delhi and New Delhi. That is the most appropriate site for this hotel and if some body who is living there has to be sent away from this place to some other place, we should not make much of it. But I would like to give an assurance that those who are asked to vacate their houses—about forty families—will be given alternative accommodation elsewhere.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I point out that they have made an appeal that they should be allowed to stay their till the examinations of their children are over?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I think he is referring to some other matter—residents in upgraded houses? They have been asked to quit. With regard to them, orders have already been passed that they can stay there till the school year is over. But as regards those of the residents now living in houses on the site which has been earmarked for the Janata Hotel, I am not sure whether that is the position.

I would like to refer to some of the points made in respect of the Supply Department.

With regard to the inspection of goods at Kanpur, we do not know the details of this case.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I have tabled a Question.

Shri K. C. Reddy: But it is not as if the inspection at one level is final. If the inspection at one level has yielded some results and there are some complaints later on, then with the assistance of our Test House organisation we re-examine the whole matter. Then a reinspection takes place and certain other decisions may be arrived at. With regard to the particular firm which he referred to I do not know the facts. If the hon. Member gives us further

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details we are prepared to investigate the matter further.

Shri Tangamani referred to certain tenders having been accepted which are not the lowest tenders. As regards that, the matter has been carefully looked into. It was only after consulting the indenter that a final decision was taken. With regard to the lowest tenderers, the machinery that was to be supplied by them was of an inferior specification and it was not acceptable to the indentors. They said that it would not serve the purpose. With regard to the second firm also they said that the machinery was not up to the mark. It was on the specific recommendation of the indenter—the difference was not very much, it was only of a minor character—and it was only after considering the requirements of the indenter that the final order was placed. I have not got the paper readily available here, otherwise I would have given him more details about this matter.

Something was said about rail anchors. We have received some complaints about rail anchors which had been passed by our inspection officers. Certain samples have been further tested at the Government Test House and report received. This matter is under examination.

With regard to the tenders the position is like this. I will quote from the report that I have received. It says:

“The lowest offer in this case was from Oliver Motor Corporation. The Indenter advised that this firm was not on the approved standard list maintained in India and that the equipment offered by them was technically inferior. The firm's Indian Agents were a new entrant in the field of Tractor maintenance and service which was considered to be a disadvantage.

The other lower offer was from Caterpillar Tractor Co. The difference in price between this offer and that of the third lowest quotation from International Harvester Export Co. (on whom the order is placed) was marginal and the technical superiority of the equipment offered by International Harvester was considered to compensate for the extra price involved. On the basis of this recommendation from the Indenter the offer of Messrs. International Harvester Export Co., though higher was accepted and this order was accordingly placed with them.”

Then, Sir, Shri Tangamani referred to purchase of some chappals from Messrs. Harness and Saddlery Factory, Kanpur. I would like to invite his attention to the fact that it is not the responsibility of the D.G.S. and D. The P. & T. Department directly placed the order on them and I do not know the further details.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I can give you more details.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Sir, there are several other matters that have been raised by hon. Members. Although I have got the information ready here, I am afraid I have not got the time to refer to all of them. As in the past, it will be our Ministry's endeavour to give the utmost consideration and attention to the various points raised and to see what could be done in order to meet the wishes of hon. Members.

With these observations, Sir, I move that the Demands of this Ministry may be passed.

श्री प्र० सु० तारिक : मैं प्रानरेवज मिनिस्टर साहब से एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। मैं उनसे यह तबक्को रखना था कि वह बतायेंगे कि एस० टी० सी० की बिल्डिंग बनाने में क्या दिक्कतें पेश आ रही हैं, जब

कि दो सान से ५५ लाख रुपया रखा हुआ है और यह भी कि एस० टी० सी० के पास इंडियन एक्सप्रेस बिल्डिंग का कितना हिस्सा है और इंडियन एक्सप्रेस के पास कितना है।

شری اے - ایم - طارق : میں آنریبل ممبر سے ایک سوال پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں - میں ان سے یہ توقع رکھتا تھا کہ وہ بتائیں گے کہ ایس - ٹی - سی - کی بلڈنگ بنانے میں کتنا دقتیں پیش آ رہی ہیں جب کہ دو سال سے ۵۵ لاکھ روپیہ لگا ہوا ہے اور یہ بھی کہ ایس - ٹی - سی - کے پاس انڈین ایکسپریس بلڈنگ کا کتنا حصہ ہے اور انڈین ایکسپریس کے پاس کتنا ہے -

Shri K. C. Reddy: Well, Sir, in the very beginning I said that several matters that have been raised on the floor of this House in the course of this debate had been raised before and we have given all the necessary information. With regard to this particular matter relating to the Indian Express building, the terms of lease, the land which was given, the various stages through which the whole matter has passed, the amount of space that we have authorised them to use for themselves, the amount of space that is to be let out by them to the State Trading Corporation and other bodies and at what rates of rent etc., in the form of a statement laid on the floor of the House. We have given all this information in extenso in that statement. I have got a statement here which runs of four or five pages. Even if I read it out it will take at least 15 minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member can sit with the hon. Minister and find out further details that he wants to have. Now, am I required to put any cut motion separately?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then I shall put all the cut motions together.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the order paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 97 to 101 and 138 to 140 relating to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply".

The motion was adopted

[The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below—Ed.]

DEMAND No. 97—MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 59,53,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

DEMAND No. 98—SUPPLIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,82,84,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Supplies'."

DEMAND No. 99—OTHER CIVIL WORKS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,46,40,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Other Civil Works'."

DEMAND No. 100—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,19,11,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

DEMAND No. 101—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 60,91,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

DEMAND No. 138—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,19,52,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

DEMAND No. 139—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BUILDINGS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,88,25,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Buildings'."

DEMAND No. 140—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,17,21,000 be granted to the

President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

15. 18 hrs.

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall now take up for discussion and voting the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. Six hours are allotted for this Ministry also. The usual time limit and other procedure would be followed. The time limit for speeches would be 15 minutes ordinarily except when it is desired to be extended by a few minutes more in the case of group leaders or the first spokesman of each group.

There is one other thing I have to mention. I have received intimation from a good number of hon. Members that they are in a hurry. Some have stated that they are leaving the station today and that they would not be here the next day. So everybody wants to go away after making the speech. I have only to express my inability, because I shall have to arrange the priorities even among the "hurrys". Therefore, if hon. Members do not have what they desire, they will excuse me.

DEMAND No. 64—MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,03,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."