

## AEROLOGICAL OBSERVATORIES.

910. \*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Will the Government kindly state how many Aerological Observatories there are in India, and where? What are the functions of such an Observatory?

(b) When was the Aerological Observatory established at Agra, and what has been the total amount of expenditure so far, recurring and non-recurring?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) There is only one Aerological Observatory which is at Agra. Its functions are to determine weather conditions by means of observations at different heights and to maintain sub-stations, now 8 in number, for the observations of upper air currents in other parts of India.

(b) In April 1913. The total expenditure up to the end of 1922-23 has been approximately Rs. 3.1 lakhs recurring, and Rs. 0.9 lakhs non-recurring, or a total of Rs. 4 lakhs.

## NEW CHAMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE AT RAISINA.

911. \*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: When are the new Chambers of the Legislature likely to be ready for occupation at Raisina?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: It is hoped that it will be possible to hold the session of February—March 1926 in the two new Chambers. It is, however, improbable that the whole building will be completely finished by that date.

## LONGWOOD HOTEL, SIMLA.

912. \*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Is it not a fact that the Associated Hotels Company, when it was asked to sell the Longwood property was definitely informed that it would be used for the purpose of accommodating Members of the Legislature?

(b) If so, do the Government propose to reserve it for the express purpose for which it was taken?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) Not so far as Government are aware.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to my reply to part (a) of starred question 619 of 8th March 1924.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Are the Government of India aware that the Associated Hotels Company had informed the Secretary to the Government, Public Works Department, that the Longwood Hotel was required for Members of the Indian Legislature?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: No, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will it surprise the Honourable Member to know that the notice that was issued under the Land Acquisition Act was as follows:

"Notice is hereby given that the house and estate known as Longwood Hotel, Simla, consisting of 4.30 acres, more or less, of land situated in Simla, and bounded as below and recently marked out and measured, is about to be taken by Government for providing residential accommodation for the Members of the Reformed Legislative Council at Simla."

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I shall accept that fact from the Honourable Member, Sir.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** In view of this fact will the Honourable Member be pleased to reserve this hotel exclusively for the use of the Members of the Legislature?

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** No, Sir, not unless I find it economical for Government to do so.

**Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** If the Assembly Chamber at Simla is not occupied by Members, will it be rented?

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** I shall have the greatest pleasure in renting it to the Honourable Member if he will pay me a good sum for it.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Have the Government received any letter from the Associated Hotels of Simla complaining against the present practice of Government running a hotel in Simla?

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** I have not seen any such letter, Sir, myself, except that a copy was sent to me privately this morning.

**Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** When this building was given on lease or contract, was any tender or offer invited?

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** The building has not been given on lease or contract to anybody.

**Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha:** Is any other Government quarter, in Delhi or Simla, let out to private persons whenever it is empty?

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** Most certainly, Sir.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Do Government propose for the benefit of the public to allow the representatives of the country to occupy Longwood Hotel and ask the military officers to go and live either in Summer Hill quarters or on the Cart Road quarters instead of in the Longwood Hotel which is situated in the elevated place, and its upper storey of the old block is preferred by all the Members of the Legislature, Sir?

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** I am not sure that I have understood the question. I do not exactly know who the representatives of the country are.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** The Members of the Indian Legislature are the representatives of the country, and the Honourable Member knows it. In view of that fact, Sir, the best quarters, the upper storey of the old block of the Longwood Hotel, should be reserved for them and the Military people who are living there should be removed to some other quarters, such as the Summer Hill or the Cart Road quarters.

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** The Cart Road quarters are meant for orthodox persons and I do not suppose they will agree to live in the upper blocks of Longwood Hotel, and I have already indicated in an answer to a question the other day that the suggestion of the Honourable Member will be taken into consideration.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Do Government propose to remove the military gentlemen, who are living upstairs of the old Block to the ground floor for the convenience of the Members of the Legislature?

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** No, not so long . . . .

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** If not, why not? The Honourable Member knows that it is convenient perhaps for the old military people to mount on their horses with their implements, swords and other materials from the ground floor instead?

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Government be pleased to say if they have examined the legal position as to whether it is permissible for them to acquire private property under the Land Acquisition Act for one object, and then utilise it for another?

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** I have not examined the question from that standpoint. But I think that, if Government have acquired the land for a public purpose, they can continue to use it for any purpose they like.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Acquired for a specific public purpose?

**Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** Will the Honourable Member kindly go into the matter?

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** I have already promised to do so.

USE OF LONGWOOD HOTEL BY COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

913. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that during the past two years commercial travellers and other members of the public have obtained board and lodging at Longwood Hotel, and if so, by whose authority and at what rate?

(b) Are the Government aware that the owners of other hotels in Simla resent the fact that the Government are competing with them in their business on that Government having purchased Longwood as a residence for Members of the Legislature, now use the place for other purposes?

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** (a) During the past two years persons other than those entitled to live in Longwood Hotel have been accommodated, on giving a promise that they would vacate immediately if the rooms they occupied were required for any one entitled to accommodation. Such persons were charged the same rates as Government officials. The allotments were made by the Superintending Engineer, in accordance with paragraph 307 of the Public Works Department Code.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

ALLOWANCE OF MORE TIME TO THE ASSEMBLY TO STUDY THE BUDGET.

914. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Are the Government aware that the time allotted to the Legislative Assembly between the presentation of the Budget and the general discussion is very short? And will the Government be pleased to make arrangements in future so that more time be given to the House to study the Budget before the general discussion?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I will answer this question and question No. 915 together. The Government are not aware that there has been any general desire to discuss the financial aspects of the Budget this year. The point raised will be considered next year.

EXTENSION OF THE TIME ALLOWED FOR THE GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

†915. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Are the Government aware of the fact that there is considerable dissatisfaction felt by members of the Assembly

† For answer to this Question—see answer below Question No. 914.