

amend suitably their Statutes/ Ordinances preferably in consultation with the Commission.

Housing problem in tribal area of Gujarat

4725. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether housing problem in the Gujarat State particularly in Tribal Area is very acute and the Government have not given much help in this respect so far; and

(b) if so, the amount earmarked to solve such problem in the State?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) The Government of Gujarat have reported that the housing problem in that State including Tribal areas, is acute. The State Government are making all efforts to tackle it.

(b) All the Social Housing Schemes implemented by the Government of Gujarat are in the State Sector. Central financial assistance for all State sector programmes, including housing, is released to the State Government in the shape of 'block loans' and 'block grants' without their being tied to any particular scheme or head of development. The State Governments are free to earmark funds for various State sector schemes, including housing, according to the requirements and priorities to be determined by them. Besides Central block assistance, the Ministry of Works and Housing allocated L.I.C. loans amounting to Rs. 999.10 lakhs upto 1976-77 to the Government of Gujarat for implementation of the various social housing schemes. Further, Housing and Urban Development Corporation has so far sanctioned loans amounting to Rs. 2881 lakhs to various housing agencies in the State.

The Plan outlay for Gujarat for Housing for 1977-78 is Rs. 8.65 crores; a sum of Rs. 80 lakhs has been earmarked for housing under Tribal Sub-Plan.

Formation of Corporation for Housing in Rural Areas

4726. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state whether there is any Corporation for Housing in Rural Areas?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): The Government of Gujarat have set up a Rural Housing Board to promote rural housing in the State. In Tamil Nadu, there is the Tamil Nadu Harijan Housing and Development Corporation which undertakes construction of houses for Harijans in the State, excluding Madras City, on lands acquired for the purpose in rural areas for distribution to poor Harijans, free of cost.

Fall in prices of jaggery

4727. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a steep fall in the prices of jaggery;

(b) whether the Government are aware that there are huge accumulated stocks of jaggery with them;

(c) if so, the action taken to help the jaggery producers to sell their jaggery; and

(d) whether the Government propose to permit the jaggery to be exported to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Weekly reports (statement attached) of wholesale prices compiled by the Economics and Statistics Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation do not indicate a steep fall in prices. While trends were mixed or steady to increasing during most of the period during May and June, 1977, only during the weeks ended 25-6-77 and 9-7-77 was a steady to declining trend recorded.

(b) Stocks of Jaggery are not regulated by the Central Government

and figures of accumulated stocks are not available with the Ministry.

(c) Prices and disposal of stocks of Jaggery are generally left to the market forces of supply and demand and no control is generally exercised, unless there is an unwarranted rise causing hardship to the common man.

(d) Export of Jaggery generally has an adverse effect on internal market prices and is normally not allowed. It may not be desirable to export Jaggery in any appreciable quantity.

Statement

Wholesale Price Index of Gur for the months of March, April, May and June this year and Economic Adviser's Index Number of Wholesale Price of Gur (Monthly average) during the years 1975-76 and 1976-77.

Month	GUR	
	1975-76	1976-7
October	324.1	260.2
November	258.5	227.8
December	188.8	215.8
January	174.1	195.4
February	175.3	208.2
March	176.9	210.3(P)
April	213.2	206.9
May	229.7	213.2
June	244.7	222.5 (upto 18-6-1977)
July	277.4	
August	280.0	
September	290.2	

Trend in Wholesale Price of Gur during May & June, 1977

Week ended	Trend	Extent of fall (—) rise (+) in prices as compared to (Rs. per qtl.)	
		Last month	Last year
7-5-77	Mixed	Mixed	(—)2.55
14-5-77	Steady to rising	Mixed	(—)5.35*
21-5-77	Mixed	Mixed	(—)2.40*
28-5-77	Mixed	Mixed	(—)5.50
4-6-77	Mixed	Mixed	(—)5.51
11-6-77	Steady to rising	Mixed	(—)5.47*
18-6-77	Steady to rising	Mixed	(—)5.45
25-6-77	Steady to declining	Mixed	(—)4.50
2-7-77	Mixed]	Mixed	(—)5.60
9-7-77	Steady to declining	Mixed	(—)13.85

NOTE :—Prices of gur generally show a rising trend in the summer months and May and June, 1977 have more or less showed this trend. Only in the last week have wholesale prices of gur displayed a steady to declining trend. Generally speaking, prices were lower in these months compared to the corresponding period last year.

*With some exception(s).

Scrutiny of irrigation potential

4728. SHRIMATI V. JEYALAKSHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a technical scrutiny of the irrigation potential was ordered by the Central Water Commission in various States during the last year; and

(b) if so, how many projects have been submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee and how many have been approved?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Reports for Major and Medium irrigation projects are regularly submitted by the State Governments to the Central Water Commission for technical scrutiny of various aspects including irrigation potential. The projects are thereafter referred to the Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission for consideration regarding their acceptability for inclusion in the States Developmental Plans.

(b) During 1976-77, 74 major and medium irrigation projects were submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission, of which 70 were found acceptable by the Committee.