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Title: Need to check unauthorized occupation of Government land and to remove unauthorized construction on such land in the country.

SHRI CHARLES DIAS (NOMINATED): The reckless increase of slum-dwellers in most of the cities in the country is a big threat to urban development. More than housing to the homeless, this is a social problem and questioning the very legal system existing in the country. On one side it raises the issue of housing to a large number of economically weaker sections, but on the other side, it poses as a question mark of utter lawlessness, leading to unauthorized occupation of Government and private lands, unhygienic atmosphere and living conditions, denying proper education to a large number of children, possibility of the spread of epidemics, leading thousands of people to unexplainable social evils etc.

The existing schemes of the Government to eradicate slums are insufficient. While more schemes are to be implemented to remove slums, stringent actions have to be taken against unauthorized occupation of lands. The nation as a whole is sympathetic towards the homeless. But encouraging people to occupy unauthorized areas, is not helping them but pushing them to perpetual misery and is an act defying the legal system of the country.

The Government should come forward to frame suitable laws in consultation with the State Governments, to check unauthorized occupation of land and also to remove urgently the unauthorized huts, shops and other constructions on the side of public roads and Government lands.