

Private Sector Participation in Housing

174. SHRISRIKANTHA DATTA MARA-SIMHARAJA WAIDYAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to promote housing during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to involve private sector in the promotion of housing;

(c) whether it is also proposed to simplify the existing procedure of providing assistance to various groups of people in building their houses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Housing is a State Subject. However, in terms of the National Housing Policy, various steps have been taken, such as: (i) supplementing the plan provision by the supply of housing finance through the National Housing Bank, HUDCO and other financial institutions. (ii) increase the supply of developed land, (iii) specific schemes to benefit the shelterless in rural and urban areas. (iv) schemes for shelter upgradation and low cost sanitation. (v) augmenting supply of building materials and extension of technical know how and (vi) removal of constraints to housing activity.

A detailed housing plan for the Eight Plan is being finalised.

(b) The present approach is that while public agencies will play increasing role in the development and supply of serviced land, the actual construction of houses will be done through private, cooperative and household sectors. Financial assistance for

legitimate private sector housing activity is available from the HUDCO and the commercial banks besides other forms of support.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. With a view to providing easy access to institutional financial assistance to various groups of people, the following steps have already been taken:-

i) National Housing Bank set up in 1988 has already introduced saving linked Home Loan Account Scheme. It has also formulated refinancing scheme for commercial banks.

ii) Lending norms of commercial banks for housing have been liberalised by the RBI, including acceptance of alternate forms of security.

iii) The State agencies have been advised to simplify the building regulations and other clearances and assist the poor households in shelter construction.

iv) Cooperative activity in housing is encouraged for various income groups.

[*Translation*]

Iodised Salt

175. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the instances which have come to the notice of Government where iodised salt in market is found without prescribed quantity of iodine;

(b) the action taken against the erring parties; and

(c) the mechanism devised to ensure availability of the salt with requisite content of iodine?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUFRAY): (a) to (c). There have been instances where iodised salt samples drawn from the markets in various States and UTs were found not to contain the prescribed quantity of iodine. The States Governments and the U.Ts. Administrations take necessary action against the erring parties under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

The Salt Commissioner is providing guidance and training in operation and quality control to the iodised salt manufacturers. Rejection of claims of subsidy, issue of show cause notices, suspension of permission to manufacture iodised salt are some of the measures adopted by the Salt Commissioner to improve the quality of iodised salt. The present strategy is to increase the availability of iodised salt in the market to persuade the iodised salt manufacturers to use better packing for retaining the level of iodisation for longer periods. Random samples are drawn from the market by the Salt Commissioner for analysis to study the quality of iodised salt available to the consumers.

[English]

Programme for Slum Dwellers

176. **SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the long and short term measures Government propose to take to ameliorate the lot of slum dwellers in Delhi, particularly the ones who are evictees and are to be resettled?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): Under the scheme of 'Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums' facilities such as

drinking water, street light, 'pay and use' toilets and baths, paved pathways in streets, drainage and garbage bins are being provided in the slums in Delhi.

Whether jhuggis are removed for the clearance of project sites under encroachment, developed 'site and service' plots are given to the evictees.

Residents of the Katras in the walled city are considered for rehousing on being evicted from such Katras.

Construction of Bunds by Pakistan

177. **DR. A.K. PATEL:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has constructed many bundhs on her side of the border in 1989;

(b) if so, how much Indian Territory is likely to be affected by flood waters in case of each of the Bundhs;

(c) the details of talks, if any held with Pakistan in this regard and Pakistan's response thereto; and

(d) the follow up action taken and the likely wayout, to meet the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) No new bunds are reported to have been constructed in 1989.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Allotment of Free/Concessional Govt. Accommodation

178. **DR. A.K. PATEL:** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: