

**Special Programme for Construction
of Low Cost Houses**

*111. SHRI DHARAM PAL
SINGH MALIK :
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to chalk out a special programme for the construction of low cost houses in the country during the next three years and if so, what are the details of the plan ; and

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI DALBIR SINGH) :

(a) Housing is a State subject and the States/Union Territories are undertaking schemes under their plans for various target groups in accordance with the Plan priorities. The programmes in this regard include the schemes for assistance through Housing and Urban Development Corporation for construction of houses for economically weaker sections, the plan scheme for allotment of house-sites and provision of construction assistance to rural landless workers to step up housing facilities for them and the provision of finances for low income groups through institutional assistance.

(b) The Seventh Five Year Plan outlay for rural house sites cum house construction scheme is 576.90 crores.

Out of the total loan sanction target HUDCO amounting to Rs. 1845 crores during the Seventh Plan period, 55% has been earmarked for economically weaker sections and low income group beneficiaries.

The Delhi Development Authority proposes to build up one lakh units per year during the Seventh Five Year Plan out of which, more than 80% will be

meant for allotment to economically weaker sections.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : May I know from the hon. Minister, whether any special survey has been got conducted by the Government to find out the actual figures of homeless people in the country ; if so what is the number of homeless persons in the country, and has a complete plan been prepared by the Government to solve this problem of homeless people ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Survey for this has not yet been conducted. The year 1987 happens to be the International Year for the Homeless Persons. Instructions from the Central Government have been issued to the State Government to send a report after conducting a survey as to how many homeless persons they have.

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : I want to know from the hon. Housing Minister whether he is aware that the funds allocated for the construction of houses for the economically weaker sections of the society are very meagre ? The condition of the houses so constructed deteriorates very fast and they do not last-very long. A conference on Housing was held in 1984 wherein a suggestion was made to raise the amount of allocation so that durable houses could be built and which should be really worth living. Will the Government pay it a consideration ?

I have to ask yet another supplementary about Bihar. What is the quantum of funds allocated by you for the economically weaker sections in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : This Housing Scheme is actually the responsibility of the State Government. We from the Centre issue only instructions or guidelines. You have just now asked how many crores of rupees have been allocated for the

Seventh Five Year Plan. Besides, HUDCO, which is a part of our financing scheme, also gives money; L.I.C. also advances money. We have issued instructions that out of the money given by the HUDCO, 60 per cent should be given to the Middle Income Group.

Housing is the responsibility of the State Governments. They have been asked to cover a specified minimum square-metre area for them so that they can have a roof over their heads. The Centre allocates funds for this purpose and apart from that the States also give their aid.

There are some States in the Country which have forged ahead in this field, but I am sorry to say that our Bihar is lagging far behind.

[English]

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Is it a fact that various agencies involved in the construction of houses in States have complained that it is very difficult to meet the required norms fixed by HUDCO in the prescribed limit of amount? If so, is the Central Government considering giving instructions to HUDCO to either change the norms or fix more price for the low cost houses?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : This matter is still under consideration. We have not yet taken a decision on it. We are already seized of the matter and we will take a decision very soon.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Day before yesterday, the hon. Minister of State for Housing visited Tamil Nadu and participated in a function. HUDCO is actually giving more funds to almost all the States. But Tamil Nadu is a State where the funds are being utilised in a better manner. People belonging to low income group, middle income group and higher income group are being given accommodation there. But some of the States are not utilising the funds allotted by HUDCO in a better manner. Will the Minister consider diverting the funds which remain un-

utilised in some States to those States which are utilising the funds in a better manner, like Tamil Nadu?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : It is a very good suggestion. After this session is over, I would like to request the concerned Ministers of the State Governments to come over here. I along with them will go to your province see what they are doing. This will give to them some inspiration so that when they go back they will start doing things in their own States. I hope the hon. Member is not only concerned about his own States but he is equally concerned about other States also.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : HUDCO's activities have mostly been concentrated in urban areas only. But what about the rural areas where the largest number of people are there in the villages. Neither HUDCO nor Planning Commission nor Government has paid sufficient attention to the rural poor. Are there any efforts being made to provide sufficient funds in the Seventh Five Year Plan to the rural housing Schemes?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : My Minister of State has visited his own State to see the work being done in rural areas. In other States also the work is progressing very well. HUDCO is now considering giving loans to the weaker sections of society not only in urban areas but in rural areas also.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Kindly take it up.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : Yes, Sir.

SHRI A. CHARLES : Sir, the hon. Minister has just now said that housing is a State subject. I agree to that. But under the NREP and RLEGP schemes, funds are allotted for the construction of houses for the weaker sections of the community whereas a number of instructions are being issued by the Centre that only burnt bricks should be used for the construction of these houses. If permission is given to use locally avail-

able material, that will be a big blessing for the weaker sections. Especially in Kerala, the soil is rich in clay content. Even the middle-class people there construct their houses with the locally available unburnt bricks. Wherever, especially in the tribal areas, it is not possible to bring these burnt bricks from far off places to their areas, they are not able to complete their houses and a number of houses in those areas are incomplete. When the hon. Prime Minister visited Trivandrum, he had the occasion to see a few houses which were not complete. Therefore, I would plead with the hon. Minister that if permission is given to use the locally available material, specially the unburnt bricks, that will be a big blessing for the weaker sections of the community.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : Your suggestion is a good suggestion and it will be implemented. We have told many State Governments that whatever material is locally available, that should be used. There is no need for taking bricks from five hundred miles away to the tribal areas. They can use their own local resources and the money could be utilised for that purpose in that very areas,

SHRI A. CHARLES ; Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : Nobody is going to stop any State Government Within that specified limit, they can construct any type of houses which are suitable for the people of that area.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chintamani Jena—Absent

Shri S.M. Bhattam—Absent.

Shri Priya Rajan Das Munsu—Absent

Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik—Absent.

Even she is not there today. She is always present.

Shri T. Bala Goud—Absent. It is a remarkable thing.

Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy. How did you decide to be present, Sir ?

Import of Foreign feature films by National Film Development Corporation

*116. **SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of films imported by the National Film Development Corporation during August 1984 to October 1985 and amount paid (including foreign exchange involved) per film ;

(b) the authority which clears the film for screening ; and

(c) the criteria adopted for clearing such films, and in what respect, if any the criteria differs from those adopted for films imported under NRI Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) A statement is given below.

(b) Films imported by the National Film Development Corporation are cleared for screening by the Corporation itself, on the recommendations of an Import Sub-Committee constituted by the Corporation.

(c) The Policy for import of feature films does not contain any criteria for clearing the films to be imported by N.F.D.C. The information about the criteria being adopted by the N.F.D.C. is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. In the case of a film to be imported by a Non-Resident Indian, it should meet the following requirements regarding quality :

(a) The film should not be violative of any guidelines issued by the Government under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 ;

(b) it should be of aesthetic value ;