

Housing Schemes for Jammu and Kashmir

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*723. DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH:

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL
KOCHACK:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has prepared a scheme for construction of houses for the poor and middle class families;

(b) if so, whether the scheme has been forwarded to the Central Government for financial help and assistance;

(c) whether there are still a large number of low and middle class families in Jammu and Kashmir who are without shelter and the Housing Corporation has not been able to give much loans to them for the development of the houses;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for not providing sufficient loans by the Housing Corporation; and

(e) what is the total Central assistance so far provided to the State Government for the above purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

'Housing' is a State subject and it is primarily the State's responsibility to cater for this basic need of the people. For different development activities under the Plan the Govt. of India gives financial assistance to the States in the shape of Block Loans and Block grants according to an accepted pattern. The inter-sectoral allocation of funds within the State Plan is made by the State Govt.

according to its priorities and requirements keeping in view the advice and guidelines issued by the Planning Commission.

There is general shortage of houses in the country and the State of Jammu & Kashmir is no exception.

The 'Housing and Urban Development Corporation' which is a Government of India enterprise, has so far received eight Schemes from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, out of which seven have been sanctioned with project cost of Rs. 6.07 crores and HUDCO's loan assistance of Rs. 4.90 crores. The remaining Scheme is under process.

In addition, loans from 'Life Insurance Corporation' and 'General Insurance Corporation' amounting to Rs. 5.47 crores and 0.20 crores respectively have been allotted to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir so far for implementing the Social Housing Schemes.

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: For the last 30 years we have been wanting to build houses for the poor people and we find great difficulty at the present moment. One is lack of funds, and the second is lack of materials to build those houses. I would specifically ask the Housing Minister as to what he is doing to give more money for these houses for the poor and secondly to provide the materials that are necessary for the building of these houses?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): I have recently discussed this question with the Kashmir Minister, Shri Thakur. It is a fact that they are handicapped because of raw material shortage, particularly cement and coal and also bricks in some areas. As far as the quantum of money is concerned, as already stated in the main answer, we have already cleared six schemes out of the seven which they have sent. The six schemes are

worth Rs. 6.07 crores. Out of the Rs. 6.07 crores worth schemes approved by the Ministry for this State, Rs. 4.90 crores is the assistance from HUDCO. The rest of the money has to come from them. I am sorry that as far as the seventh scheme which the State Government has brought is concerned, the cost of that scheme is 355.48 lakhs. The sanction was for Rs. 332.12 lakhs. Unfortunately, after spending Rs. 68 lakhs, the State Government abandoned the scheme.

DR. KARAN SINGH: There are two parts in my question. In his reply to my colleague, the Minister said that there is a great shortage of cement in Jammu and Kashmir, which is one of the reasons why the housing projects are not progressing satisfactorily. (a) Would the Minister kindly tell us whether the cement factory that is being processed at Basohli, which will to a great extent solve this problem and help the Government to take up a massive housing programme is going to be expedited? (b) In Jammu particularly there are a large number of ex-servicemen and for a long time, there has been a demand for a special defence colony as there in many north Indian States and maybe in the south also. Despite this demand, there has been no response from the State Government. So, would the Minister let us know whether a special demand for a defence colony in Jammu has been received or not and if so, whether the Government of India will try and persuade the State Government to fulfil it?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As far as the cement factory which the hon. member mentioned is concerned, I have taken note of it and I would speak to the Industry Minister to expedite it, if it needs expedition. As far as defence colony is concerned, for the serving defence personnel, the defence Ministry take up the programme of housing. As far as the case of retired government personnel and retired defence personnel are concerned, they have to form a cooperative

and put forward a scheme through the State Government; then HUDCO will be prepared to consider it.

Housing Schemes for Karnataka

*724. **SHRI B. V. DESAI:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has prepared a scheme for construction of houses for the poor and middle class families;

(b) if so, whether the scheme has been forwarded to the Union Government for financial help and assistance;

(c) whether there are still a large number of low and middle class families in Karnataka who are without shelter and the Housing Corporation has not been able to give sufficient loans to them for the development of the houses in the State; and

(d) if so, whether Centre has agreed to give all financial and other help to the State Government to achieve this aim for providing houses to all the low and middle class families during the current financial year and also in the Sixth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAMMAD USMAN ARIF): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (d). Housing is a State subject and it is primarily the State's responsibility to cater to this basic need of the people. The Government of India gives financial assistance to the State Governments in the shape of Block Loans and Block Grants for the development activities under the State Plan. It is the State Government which makes the inter-sectoral allocation of funds under the State Plan