

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 24, 1986/
Chaitra 3, 1908 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Tariq Anwar—
Absent.

The very beginning is wrong.

Shri Sarfaraz Ahmad—Absent.

AN HON. MEMBER : Shri Sarfaraz
Ahmad is also conspicuous by his absence.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anand Singh—
Absent.

Ghafoor Saheb might have told them

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): All of them are in a holiday mood.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(S. BUTA SINGH): All the four belong
to Bihar.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Ghafoor Saheb,
you are ready, but there may be connivance
among the hon. Members from Bihar.

Shri Hussain Dalwai—Absent.

So, it is hat-trick today.

Dr. T. Kalpana Devi—Absent.

Should I adjourn the House today to
celebrate a holiday, if you so desire?

Shri N. Dennis—Absent,

Shri Kali Prasad Pandey. Someone
has to break this chain of absence.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :
Since I come from Bihar, I shall have to
break it.

Housing problem

*414. SHRI KALI PRASAD
PANDEY :

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government contemplate any positive measures at the Central level or to give suitable directions to States to expedite the solution to housing problem, especially keeping in view the growth in population and consequent pressure on land?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI DALBIR SINGH): With
a view to removing the housing inadequacy
and expediting solution of the housing
problem, the following measures have been
undertaken :

- (1) Provision of shelter facilities to the entire shelterless population by 2000 A.D. as per IYSH objective has been accepted by the Government.
- (2) The level of investment in the Public Sector during the 7th Plan has been raised to Rs. 2,458 crores against Rs. 1,491 crores in the 6th Plan.
- (3) Under the 20-Point Programme which is being implemented as an

essential part of State Plans, schemes for distribution of developed housing sites and construction assistance have been included. Moreover, the States are being assisted under the financing programmes of Housing & Urban Development Corporation for the schemes for housing of economically weaker sections and low income group families.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that non-regularisation of unauthorised colonies is also adding to this problem? Here in Delhi and in the neighbouring areas, it has been found that several people purchase a small piece of land for the purpose of constructing a house but instead construct hotels by encroaching on public land. The instance of Vikram Hotel is there. Its registration was done in the name of a house but it ended up in a hotel worth crores of rupees. Therefore, I want to know whether illegal occupation is also one of the basic reasons; and if so, what steps does the Government propose to take to check it?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Sir, so far as the question of the hon. Member with regard to the regularisation of unauthorised colonies is concerned, the Government is constantly seized of the matter. Although, I had replied to a similar question last time also, yet I would say that we have two schemes of rural sites and urban sites in this regard. These schemes are of two types. The first is for the people belonging to economically weaker sections living in urban areas and the second scheme which we have is of full assistance. A provision of Rs. 577 crores has been made for landless workers in the Seventh Five Year Plan under which Rs. 500/- for site development and another Rs. 2000/- for house construction have been provided for each family. The income ceiling of Rs. 350/- in respect of the people belonging to economically weaker sections living in urban areas has now been raised to Rs. 700. The loan for house construction has been raised to Rs. 5,000/- as against Rs. 3,000/- previously. They will have to repay

this amount in 20 to 22 years and only five per cent interest will be charged thereon.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : In my main question, I had asked about the possession of such land which was purchased in the name of house construction but later on luxury hotel came up there. I want to know what action does Government propose to take in such cases of illegal construction and the time by which action will be taken in this regard?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : If the hon. Member gives us specific information, we shall inquire into that and let him know.

MR. SPEAKER : The question was on something else and you are hitting sixes unnecessarily.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Sir, you did not object when sixes were hit that day.

MR. SPEAKER : Go on hitting

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Here is my second supplementary, may I know whether non-availability of loans on lower rates of interest to the needy people, Group Housing Societies and colonisers also add to housing problem?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : I do not agree with the hon. Member on this point. We have been doing it all along for the weaker sections. Besides, a review of the 20-Point Programme was again made in 1982. The Central Government always gives directions to the States in this regard. Although housing is a State subject, yet it is with a view to cater to the interests of weaker sections that we are celebrating the year 1987 as 'House for the Houseless' International Year and this is the resolve of the U.N.O. too. Not only in India, this year is being celebrated the World over. We have adopted this approach keeping in view the housing problem in the country and the Central Government keeps a constant watch over it.

[*English*]

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA : Sir, we have been listening the slogans that

Government is constructing so many houses for low income group, middle income group people and the weaker sections of the society. So far as I think the remedy of this problem lies in bringing a legislation on ceiling of urban property. So, if the Government is really interested to solve this problem may I know whether Government is bringing forward any legislation to put a ceiling on urban property?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Due consideration will be paid to the suggestion given by hon. Member. The Government makes announcements for the economically weaker sections from time to time and fulfills them too.

[*English*]

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : The Minister in his reply has said that they undertake regular check-ups and spot inspections. I would, however, like to bring to his notice that in the Kashmiri Gate area, about 30,000 slum dwellers and labourers sleep on the pavements by paying Rs. 2 per day to the DDA officials. What concrete and specific action, do the Government propose to take to help these poor people?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : This problem is not confined to Kashmere Gate alone, this is being faced everywhere and we admit it and we are paying proper attention to it. D.D.A. and our Department are dealing with this problem.

MR. SPEAKER : The foreign countries are adopting the latest technique under which houses can be constructed speedily. Why don't you adopt that technique? It will be cheaper too.

[*English*]

Are you contemplating something like that? By that, construction can be stepped up.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR):

You are right, Sir. Tenders for the construction of 12,000 houses have been invited and a high power committee for this purpose has also been constituted which is considering the construction of pre-fabricated houses speedily, as stated by you. The tenders are expected to be finalized within a week's time and the work is being entrusted to the big builders like N.B.O., C.P.W.D., etc. Not only this, after the tender is accepted, we shall invite those also who have not filled up the tender because the problem of housing is a gigantic problem.

MR. SPEAKER : I have seen in other countries that very good houses are constructed through this technique.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : Yes, Sir, we are taking steps in that very direction.

Recruiting agents under Emigration Act

*415. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether after enforcement of the Emigration Act, 1983 Government published a directory of the registered recruiting agents; and

(b) the number of recruiting agents registered for carrying on the business of recruitment of Indian workers for the purpose of employment in foreign countries who were found guilty of entrapping people in their clutches and exploiting them after the enforcement of this Act?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Directory of registered recruiting agents (in two volumes) has been published and the same has been placed in the Library of the House.

(b) Irregularities such as forgery of papers, substitution of contracts, extraction of money, forgery of visa, recruitment without proper documents, etc. were noticed to have been committed by 22 registered agents. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, registration certificates have