

AFFAIRS (SHRI K RAGHU-RAMAIAH): (a) The following amounts were released to the State Governments under the Central Sec-

tor Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers and the Scheme for Provision of House-sites to Landless Workers in Rural Areas:—

(Rs. on lakhs)

Year	Amount released under	
	Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers	Scheme for Provision of House sites to Landless Worker in Rural Areas.
1972-73	49.74	438.97
1973-74	50.30	290.99
1974-75	80.00	This Scheme was transferred to the State Sector with effect from 1st April, 1974.

All other social housing schemes introduced by the Ministry of Works and Housing are in the State Sector. Central financial assistance for all State Sector Programmes, including Housing, is released by the Ministry of Finance to the State Governments in the shape of 'block loans' and 'block grants'. The State Governments are free to earmark funds for various State Schemes, including Housing, according to the requirements and priorities to be determined by them.

(b) According to the information furnished by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, 8387 houses were constructed by them under various Social Housing Schemes during these years.

(c) 2,02,741 people belonging to weaker sections of rural areas were given house-sites in Uttar Pradesh since the proclamation of emergency.

Compulsory sports for girls in schools

3622. **SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps in this year to make

sports compulsory in all the schools for girls; and

(b) if so, salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) School education is a State subject. State Governments can take a decision about making sports compulsory for girls in all schools from this academic year. However, the present position is that physical education is an integral part of the school curriculum and provided for in the time table for every class though it may not be an examination subject.

(b) Does not arise.

Water Scarcity in Thar Desert

3623. **SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state whether underground water reservoirs are to be created by nuclear explosions to meet water scarcity of Thar desert?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND