

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the question of earmarking 50 per cent of the housing development funds in the Fourth Plan for rural housing projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH) : (a) and (b). During the meeting of the Consultative Committee of Parliament attached to this Department, held at Bangalore in June, 1970, a suggestion was made that about 50% of the total funds provided for Housing and Urban Development in the Fourth Plan should be utilised for rural housing. No decision has yet been taken on this suggestion, which is under consideration in consultation with the State Governments who are primarily concerned with the matter.

Abolition of Sales Tax on Articles Imported by Public Sector Agencies

131. SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO :
SHRI G. VENKATASWAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to waive Sales-tax in Bengal on imports channelised to distributors through the public sector importing agencies;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of this new move;

(c) whether Government have requested the State Governments of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal to abstain from imposing Sales tax on goods supplied to established importers who can obtain their supplies from the State agencies; and

(d) if so, the reactions of these State Governments in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c). Levy of Sales tax is generally a State subject under the Constitution. Exemption, if any, from Sales Tax has to be granted by the appropriate State Government. The Central Government have not addressed the Governments of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra in this respect.

(d) Does not arise.

Excise duty on Polythylene Films

132. SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO :
SHRI M. SUDARSANAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Plastics Manufacturers Association has urged Government to abolish the excise duty on Polythylene Films as it has thrown out of gear a large number of small units producing lay-flat tubing; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Polythylene lay flat tubings, sheets, sheetings and films have since been exempted from payment of duty with effect from 17.7.1970.

हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लिमिटेड के बेयरमेन द्वारा त्यागपत्र

133. श्री मय्युंजय प्रसाद : क्या पेंड्रोसियम तथा रसायन और ज्ञान तथा वायु मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लिमिटेड के बेयरमेन श्री रघुनाथ सिंह ने त्यागपत्र दे दिया है; यदि हां, तो उन्होंने तत्सम्बन्धी पत्र में इस्तीफा देने का क्या कारण दिया है और इस बारे में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;