

Community Industrial Corporation in Assam

*1812. Kumari Vedakumari: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one pilot scheme for 10 villages about Rupoli Bowgong District of Assam under the name Community Industrial Corporation has been forwarded by the Government of Assam to his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme is under examination in consultation with the Jute Commissioner.

Indian Engineering Goods Show-room in Singapore

*1814. { Shri Warior:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Engineering Goods Show-room has been opened in Singapore; and

(b) if so, the nature of the goods exhibited?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rural Housing Programme

*1815. { Shri Kediyan:
Shri Warior:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to promote the use of local building materials and improve the construction techniques with regard to the Rural Housing Programme?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chandra): The Village Housing Projects Scheme formulated by the Government of India contains a directive enjoining upon the State Governments, who have to implement the Scheme, that they should as far as possible, utilise only locally available building materials in the housing projects in the villages. The Scheme also lays stress on the production of building materials like bricks, tiles, doors, hinges, frames, rafters, etc. locally, on a cooperative basis; on setting up of cooperative industries for this purpose, and on preparation of suitable designs and specifications for houses by the Rural Housing Cells (being set up in each State) with due regard to local conditions and materials locally available.

2. The National Buildings Organisation has also already circulated to State Governments pamphlets containing useful information on such subjects as "Water proof renderings for mud walls", "Preservative treatment of grass and palmyra thatch for roofing", and "Treatment of bamboos" etc.

3. Action is also under way to set up research-cum-training centres in selected engineering institutions for undertaking work on Rural Housing relating to research, training and extension. The functions of these Centres will include *inter alia*, research with a view to promoting the better use of local building materials and improvement of construction techniques for village housing.

Manufacture of Plate Glass

*1816. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt is being made to manufacture plate glass in India;

(b) whether any foreign collaboration has been sought therefor; and

(c) if so, the nature of the scheme?