setting up two subsidiaries one for infrastructure development and the other for providing consultancy services particularly in the field of housing finance within India and abroad;

(b) if so, the main objectives of these two subsidiaries;

(c) the total loan provided to the individuals or to the States in constructing the houses especially in rural areas; and

(d) the target for financial assistance earmarked for 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA) : (a) and (b) There is no Corporation named 'Housing Development Corporation' under the administrative control of the Central Government. However, there is one housing finance corporation named 'Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO)' but there is no decision of the Government for setting up of any subsidiary of the Company.

(c) HUDCO does not provide any financial assistance to individuals directly. The financial assistance is provided to State Housing Boards, Development Authorities, Cooperative Societies, Improvement Trusts, Non-Governmental Organisations, etc. HUDCO since inception and as on 31.10.1995, has sanctioned 10051 schemes with a loan component of Rs. 7235.65 crores for various housing projects. These projects, on completion, would enable construction/upgradation of 58,02, 738 dwelling units and development of 3,42,233 plots. Out of this, 1663 schemes with loan amount of Rs. 1247.49 crores for construction of 29,44,883 dwelling units are for rural areas.

(d) As per HUDCO's annual loan allocation, an amount of Rs. 1185 crores has been earmarked for loan sanctions during 1995-96 for various housing projects.

[Translation]

Light Combat Aircraft

2569. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for developing the Naval proto type of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Project definition phase (PDP) to examine the Naval requirements and to identify design modification and appropriate technologies for Naval Variant of LCA has been undertaken. This is expected to be completed by end 1996. Based on results of this study, detailed design and development of Naval variant of LC would be taken up.

(c) The estimate of expenditure on development of Naval variant of LCA would emerge from PDP studies.

'ASCON' System

2570. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'ASCON System' has been introduced in the Army;

(b) if so, the name of the sector in which this system is proposed to be introduced first;

(c) whether the said system is fully automatic and indigenous;

(d) the time taken in developing this system; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred on its development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (e) Army Static Switched Communiction Network (ASCON) has been introduced in the Army. It covers Northern and Western Sectors. The system is fully automated and indigenously developed. It took nearly four years to develop the system. The total expenditure incurred has been approximately Rs. 121 crores.

[English]

Seismic Observatories

2571. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Seismic observatories functioning in the country as on June 30,1995;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up some more observatories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?