

(b) whether the amount of subsidy is paid by the Central Government or State Governments; and

(c) the States in which housing Scheme for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is being implemented and the amount of subsidy granted in those States so far by the Central or State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA) : (a) The Quantum of subsidy varies from State to State and from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 500/- per house site. In some States, house-sites are acquired by Government and allotted free of charge. Generally, the cost of construction of a house for purposes of subsidies for housing has been fixed at Rs. 1200/- which could be raised at the discretion of the State Government to Rs. 1600/-. In the case of snowbound areas bordering the Himalayas, the cost has been fixed at Rs. 2000/-. Against this ceiling, subsidy of 75% is given and the balance 25% is expected to be contributed by the beneficiary. The expenditure on subsidy is shared on a 60 : 40 basis between the Central and State Governments under State Plan schemes, and on a 100% basis by the Central Government in the case of Central Sector Schemes.

(b) The subsidy is paid through the State Governments to be beneficiaries.

(c) The housing schemes are in operation, in some form or other, in all the States. The figures of expenditure in the States for the current year would be available only after the year closes.

RAID ON THE RESIDENCE OF A FRUIT MERCHANT OF DELHI

4403. **SHRI K. N. PANDEY :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Customs authorities have raided many times the residence and office of Shri Lekh Raj, importer of fresh fruits from Afghanistan in Shakti Nagar and cloth market, Delhi since 1963; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action against him so far?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) and (b) On 31st

May, 1963 and 2nd January, 1964 the premises of Shri Lekh Raj in Delhi were searched by the Customs authorities in the course of investigations into certain seizures of gold from two other persons. However, nothing incriminating was found during these searches and, therefore, the question of taking any action under the Customs law did not arise.

DELHI FRUIT MERCHANT FIRM INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING

4404. **SHRI B. K. DASCHOWD-HURY :**
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs authorities have seized twice during 1966 and 1967 amount worth about Rs. 5 lakhs sent in a parcel from Bombay to M/s. Lekh Raj Maman Chand of 51, Indra Market, Delhi-7;

(b) if so, the stage at which the investigation is at present against the firm;

(c) whether it is a fact that this firm through their branches at Amritsar, Delhi and Bombay smuggled gold in the crates of fresh and dry fruits from Afghanistan; and

(d) the steps taken to blacklist this firm?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government have no such information.

(d) Does not arise.

FINANCE COMMISSION

4405. **SHRI YASHPAL SINGH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating the setting up of a new Finance Commission before the Fourth Plan is finalised; and

(b) if so, when a decision would be announced?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) and (b). The