

Housing Policy recently laid on Table of the House envisages specific measures for increasing the access of the poor and disadvantaged sections to various housing inputs. However, considering the importance of this sector, Central Government also provides financial assistance to the States as well as Union Territory agencies through financial institutions like National Housing Bank, HUDCO etc., for financing housing activities. Indira Awas Yojana is a centrally sponsored scheme operated by various State Governments in rural areas for the housing of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and freed bonded laborers. Schemes like shelter upgradation of urban poor, night shelters for urban pavement dwellers, low cost sanitation schemes for removal of manual scavenging etc. are also schemes specifically operated by the Central Government with loan and subsidy by State agencies. HUDCO provides 55% of its loans for housing lower income groups in urban and rural areas.

Government of India have also initiated action to ensure largest availability of housing finance and access building materials and technology to all sections of population.

Upliftment of Small and Marginal Farmers

2350. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a new scheme for the upliftment of small and marginal farmers during Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b)

Question does not arise.

Animal Husbandry

2351. MAJOR D.D. KIHANORIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Himachal Pradesh for promoting animal husbandry in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Deep Sea Fishing Harbours

2352. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of Deep Sea Fishing harbours being considered by the Union Government for development along the Western Coast; and

(b) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Techno Economic feasibility studies are being carried out to take a decision for establishing two new deep sea fishing harbours at Okha (Gujarat) and Agardanda (Maharashtra) along the Western Coast during the 8th Five Year Plan.