

and Employment (Shri P.K. Thungon) : (a) and (b) Housing being a State subject, various social housing schemes for different target groups i.e. EWS, LIG, MIG are being implemented by various State Governments out of their State plan funds. The income eligibility in respect of these schemes is as follows :

EWS	—	upto Rs. 1250 per months.
LIG	—	Rs. 1251 to Rs. 2650/- per month.
MIG	—	Rs. 2651 to Rs. 4450/- per month.

Various H.F.Is. are providing loans assistance for these schemes on concessional terms.

(c) and (d) No Central assistance is released for the State sector urban housing scheme. However, LIC/CIC are providing loan assistance to the States for the implementation of these schemes. During 1994-95, LIC and GIC provided loan assistance to the extent of Rs. 218.34 crores and Rs. 76.67 crores respectively for these schemes. HUDCO also provided loan assistance for social housing schemes at varying rates of interest. During 1994-95 HUDCO sanctioned loan assistances amounting to Rs. 595 crores for these schemes.

[Translation]

NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL PRICING AUTHORITY

1973. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya : Will the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers be pleased to state :

(a) the number of members of the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority meant for fixation of prices of medicines and pharmaceuticals and to ensure their availability;

(b) the interval after which the said authority undertake review in regard to fixation of prices;

(c) whether there is any procedure to maintain balance between the prices of imported and indigenously Produced medicines; and

(d) if so, the details in regard to working of the said authority?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Department of Electronics and Department of Ocean Development (Shri Eduardo Faleiro) : (a) and (b) In the "Modification in Drug Policy, 1986" announced in September, 1994, there is a provision to set up an independent body of experts called the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) to do the work of price fixation. The time-frame for granting price approvals will be 2 months for formulations and 4 months for bulk drugs from the date of receipt of the complete prescribed information.

(c) and (d) The modalities of the functioning of the NPPA will be finalised by the Authority itself.

[English]

URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ASSISTED BY WORLD BANK

1974. Dr. (Shrimati) K.S. Soundaram :
Dr. P. Vallal Peruman :

Will the Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has provided financial assistance for taking up Urban Development Projects in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment (Shri P. K. Thungon) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank has extended loan assistance for implementation of Tamil Nadu Under Development Project at a total estimated cost of Rs. 633 crores, since 1988. The main components include sites & services; Guided Urban Development; Water Supply Schemes; Bus Depots; augmentation of Fleet, etc. The Project closing date is September, 1995.

NEW FERTILIZERS PLANTS

1975. Shri G. Devaraya Naik :
Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad :

Will the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers be pleased to state :

(a) the plans drawn up by the Government for setting up the new fertilizer plants in various parts of the country;

(b) whether the revival of sick fertilizer plants has also been taken into account;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the allocations made for the purpose; and

(d) the extent to which the production of fertilizers are likely to increase as a result thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Department of Electronics and Department of Ocean Development (Shri Eduardo Faleiro) : (a) As per the Industrial Policy Statement issued by the Government on 24th July, 1991, no industrial licence is required for setting up a fertilizer plant. The Public Sector/Cooperative units under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers have adopted the following strategy to reduce the gap between demand and supply of fertilizers:

(i) Expansion/retrofitting/revamping of existing fertilizer plants. By better utilisation of existing infrastructure and offsites, the capital investment per tonne of product is reduced;

(ii) With constraints in the availability of natural gas, the preferred feedstock for nitrogenous fertilizers,