

which was fabricated by Ford Aerospace Corporation of USA was launched in July, 1988. Due to a major power anomaly which occurred soon after the launch, the satellite was operated for sixteen months at approximately 50% of its capacity. The satellite was abandoned after sixteen months of operation as it lost earth lock.

(b) Even at the time of the loss of INSAT-IC, the continuity of service was provided by INSAT-IB. INSAT-ID was

launched in June, 1990 and the totally indigenously fabricated INSAT-2A in July, 1992. These two satellites have not only provided continuity of service, but also considerably enhanced the total service capacity, particularly because each of the indigenously fabricated INSAT-2 series of satellites have much larger capacity than INSAT-I satellites.

(c) The cost of each of the INSAT series of satellites launched is given below:

INSAT-IA & IB	-	65.9 million US Dollars
INSAT-IC	-	61.9 Million US dollars
INSAT-ID	-	62.1 million US Dollars
INSAT-2A	-	Rs.78.00 crores (approx)

(d) The cost of each of the INSAT series of satellites to be launched during the

Eighth Plan period is as under:

INSAT-2B	-	Rs. 78.00 crores (approx.)
INSAT-2C & 2D (together)	-	Rs. 190.00 crores (approx.)

(e) INSAT-2B will be launched in June 1993 from Kourou, French Guiana. The launch services for INSAT-2C and 2D is yet to be decided.

[English]

Use of Rubber Wood in Construction of Buildings

5154. Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to encourage the use of rubber wood in the construction of Government buildings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, with a view to decrease the use of conventional wood in Government building constructions, suitability of use of rubber wood has to be studied.

Allotment of Government Accommodation

5155. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA; Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given on December 11, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 3312 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (c). The relevant information is furnished in the Statement enclosed.

The main issues highlighted in the news item captioned "mal-practices in allotting Government accommodation" appeared in Indian Express dated 8.9.1991 mainly related to delay in allotment and unauthorised occupation of Government accommodation, quarters remaining vacant for periods as long as 62 months and out of turn allotment.

The information with regard to these issues is as under:-

(i) The news item mentioned that 1617 units were lying vacant for varying periods. Actually these were 617 units -19 in Type-I, 323 in Type-II and 275 in Type-III. Most of these quarters were located in M.B. Road, Lodi Road Complex, DIZ Area and were of smaller plinth area. Since these quarters were in out-laying areas and were of smaller size, the Government employees did not readily accept these quarters and had to be offered several times to other employees before these were finally accepted. Only two cases are such where delay of 62 months has been indicated. Actually, these were declared dangerous by CPWD in August, 1983 and were declared fit for occupation in October, 1988 only. As such there was no delay even in these two cases.

(ii) The newspaper reported that 4292

quarters remained under unauthorised occupation during 1987 to 1989. 2553 quarters were got vacated during this period and as on 31.3.1989, 1739 quarters were under unauthorised occupation. Since then these quarters have also been vacated leaving 235 cases of unauthorised occupation. A number of these cases could not be vacated due to litigation resorted to by ex-allottees in District Courts.

(iii) To reduce the incidence of out of turn allotments, efforts are made to keep the ratio of out of turn and in-turn allotments as 1:4.

Litigation on service matters

5156. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given on November 29, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 1408 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken in the matter;

(b) whether there is any proposal to minimise litigation on service matters which are on the high side involving wasteful non-plan expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Steps have been taken from time to time to reduce Government litigation.

(b) and (c). The Ministries and Departments of Government of India have been advised to ensure that appeals are filed only in those matters which require authoritative pronouncements of the Supreme Court on matters of law or questions of general importance.