

- (iv) Cost of construction/Price of the flat excluding the amount paid for initial registration, whichever is the least of the above.

(4) *Cost Ceiling Limits* : The cost of the house to be built/purchased should not exceed :

- (a) Rs. 1.25 lakhs for employees whose 100 months' basic pay is upto Rs. 80,000.
- (b) Rs. 2 00 lakhs for employees whose 100 months basic pay exceeds Rs. 80,000 but is upto Rs. 1,70,000.
- (c) Rs. 3.00 lakhs for employees whose 100 months' basic pay exceeds Rs. 1,70,000.

[*Translation*]

Medical Aid for Working Children under ESI Scheme

6198. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether Government propose to provide free medical aid for the working children bringing them within the purview of ESI Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : The child labour employed in establishments covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act and drawing wages below Rs. 6 per day are already entitled to free medical care and cash benefits under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme. The question of further extension of the scheme to establishments which generally employ child labour is engaging the attention of the Government.

[*English*]

Non-Availability of Food

6199. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister

of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether India had achieved a fair degree of self sufficiency on the food front and yet a sizeable number of its population still go to bed hungry each day ;

(b) if so, details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (c) : The compound rate of growth of food-grains production between 1950-51 to 1983-84 at 2.61 per cent was significantly higher than the average 2.26 per cent annual growth rate of population during the same period. The growth rate of foodgrain production further accelerated to 4.3 per cent during the period 1979 80 to 1983-84 which was higher than the Sixth Plan target of 3.9 per cent. Record production of foodgrains at 151.5 Million tonnes in 1983-84 followed by another bumper harvest in 1984-85, apart from easing domestic availability, helped in building up buffer stock significantly and attaining self-sufficiency on food front. The imports of foodgrains have been entirely eliminated except to honour the commitments already contracted.

Besides increasing food production, it has been the policy of the Government to ensure adequacy of food stocks in all parts of the country for public distribution system so that all people, at all times have both physical and economic access to the food they need. Through a package of poverty alleviation programmes, the Government is improving the purchasing power of those who suffer from want of food because of poverty.

[*Translation*]

Companion Cropping

6200. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE