

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d). The Government of India has identified Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Kerala as the potential areas for cultivation of palm trees. Two projects, one in Kerala and the other in Andaman & Nicobar Islands spread over 6,000 and 2,400 hectares respectively are at present under implementation. Some coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are also being exploited. The quantity of oil so far extracted in Andaman & Nicobar Islands during 1983-84 is 39.30 Kilo Litres. The crude oil produced by Oil Palm India Ltd. which is implementing the project in Kerala during the year 1983-84 is 195.16 MTs.

Rules for Accreditation of Correspondents

3006. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to relax the rules, for central accreditation of correspondents of Delhi working for small newspapers and newspapers for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ;

(b) if so, details thereof ; and

(c) if not, whether copy of the rules for central accreditation for Press Information Bureau, New Delhi will be laid on the Table of the House ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) to (c). Existing rules already provide for relaxation of conditions for grant of accreditation to correspondents of small newspapers including those representing Sheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Proposal to Increase Housing Finance

3007. SHRI T. BALA GAUD : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for substantial increase of housing finance is under consideration of government ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether an assessment of housing shortage has also been made by Government ;

(d) If so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the measures taken by Government for easy availability of construction materials at reasonable cost ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) : (a) and (b). The need for increase in housing finance has been accepted and outlays for the Seventh Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised.

(c) and (d). As per the estimates made by National Buildings Organisation (NBO) on the basis of the Census data, the current housing shortage in terms of dwelling units is as follows :—

<i>(in millions)</i>		
URBAN	RURAL	TOTAL
5.9	18.8	24.7

(e) Some of the important measures are as follows :—

- (i) steps to increase the production of construction materials such as cement, steel etc. The Government are following a liberal policy towards granting of industrial licences for setting up cement factories ;
- (ii) making available levy cement for construction of houses upto a limited plinth area ; and
- (iii) encouraging the use of locally available material.

[Translation]

Construction of Lake and Big Park near Tihar Gaon

3008. SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state the present position of the scheme regarding construction of the proposed lake and big park near Tihar Gaon in Western Delhi which was started by DDA in 1980 ?