

agement and roadways/proper traffic arrangements parks, health and education facilities and maintenance of buildings.

(c) The project is being examined.

Door to Door Courier Service by Vayudoot

2067. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the scheme that Vayudoot, the feeder airline, has a plan to start its own door to door courier service;

(b) if so, whether it is going to have any impact on P & T services;

(c) whether the feeder air-line is implementing their courier service plan in coordination with the Ministry of Communications; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. The details of the scheme have not been finalised.

(b) and (c). Though the proposed scheme is not likely to have any impact on the P & T services, the Ministry of Communications will be consulted, if required.

(d) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Proposal to Declare Housing as Industry

2068. SHRI G.I. PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to declare housing as an industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). There is a proposal to declare 'Housing' as an 'Industry' but a final view is yet to be taken.

Loans by Banks and Financial Institutions for Housing

2069. SHRI G.I. PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a acute shortage of housing in the country;

(b) the schemes taken up by Government to finance this growing shortage of housing;

(c) whether Government propose to involve financial institutions and banks in a big way to boost housing activities in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the National Buildings Organisation estimates the housing shortage was 24.7 million dwelling units in 1985.

(b) to (d). Housing is a State subject and Central financial assistance is given to State Governments U.T. Administrations in the shape of 'block loans' and 'block grants' without being tied to any particular scheme or head of development. Housing finance is also available from Life Insurance Corporation, General Insurance Corporation, Cooperative banks, commercial banks and HUDCO etc. In addition, to provide easy accessibility to Housing Finance, a National Housing Banks is being set up.

Seminar on Cotton Production

2070. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to undertake a thorough study of cotton production;

(b) if so, whether Government have asked the agricultural experts to find out new varieties of cotton;

(c) if so, whether any seminar on cotton production ginning was held in Bombay recently; and

(d) if so, the broad details of the discussions held at the seminar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Review of cotton production is done periodically and the problems and prospects are discussed thoroughly. In research, local problems are discussed every year in zonal meetings and general situation is reviewed once in two years.

(b) Evolving new varieties of cotton by agricultural experts is a continuous process.

Having achieved outstanding results in development of hybrids and varieties of long staple and high quality cotton, the emphasis is now being given to achieving similar results in medium staple category. Varieties resistant to diseases and pests is also a priority area.

(c) Yes, Sir, a seminar on "Cotton production and ginning" was held in Bombay on 3rd July, 1987.

(d) The main topics of discussion were (i) modernisation of Indian ginning and pressing industry and (ii) Improvement in forecasting of cotton production.

Textile modernisation funds are proposed to be generated for the benefit of old ginning and pressing mills.

Advantage is proposed to be taken of the remote sensing and other technologies to improve forecasting system.

Import of Butter from Ireland

2071. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of butter was imported from Ireland in April, 1987;

(b) whether it is a fact that this butter was seriously contaminated with radio-active residues;

(c) the agency through which this butter was purchased and to whom it is likely to be supplied for consumption;

(d) whether Government are aware that the same quality of butter was supplied to many other countries like the Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka and the Consignments were destroyed in those countries;

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(f) whether any protest has been lodged in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) A limited quantity of butter was received by the Indian Dairy Corporation (IDC).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The butter was supplied as gift of the European Economic Community (EEC) for Operation Flood Programme. The butter is utilised for recombination into liquid milk by various Dairies.

(d) Government's attention has been drawn to a news item relating to milk products.

(e) and (f). The EEC has been advised by IDC to ensure that the skim milk powder, butter oil and white butter despatched from European countries should be tested and