

Board that the f.o.b. price is not less than the Minimum Export prices fixed from time to time. Minimum Export prices are fixed taking into account the prices realised in overseas market and the demand for our products. Coir Board has reported that no violation of this condition has come to its notice so far.

#### IFAD Loan

9977. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is considering three Indian projects for grant of loans ;

(b) if so, the total loan asked for and terms and conditions thereof ; and

(c) the project that will be undertaken with this loan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE FINANCE : (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) Discussions have been held with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on a pipeline of projects for consideration for funding in the future by IFAD, IFAD assistance is currently extended on highly concessional terms, with no interest charges; and a service charge of 1% per annum on disbursed amounts. The projects for which assistance will be tied-up is at present indeterminate and the quantum of assistance from IFAD would depend upon the projects to be approved and IFAD's own resources development position.

#### National Housing Bank

9978. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Housing Bank has been set up;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this would improve the availability of housing finance;

(d) whether Government are considering any plan in which people would be involved themselves in the housing programmes; and

(e) if so, whether the National Housing Bank would be of any help to the people involved in the housing programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) National Housing Bank would be given initial share capital of Rs. 100 crores and additional Rs. 100 crores would be provided for rural housing schemes.

Government is encouraging constitution of cooperative housing societies and thereby people's direct involvement in housing activity. Secondly housing finance institution set up by commercial banks would also formulate schemes for the involvement of individuals in Housing finance.

#### Production of opium

9979. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the India's rating in the world's production of opium; and

(b) the extent of country's opium production utilised by domestic pharmaceuticals and other concerns ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) and (b) India continues to be the only producer of licit opium for export in the world.