

which will finance housing activities in the Northern Region.

Diversification of Jute Products

838. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to initiate steps to encourage diversification of Jute products apart from exploiting the non-traditional markets all over the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government thereon; and

(c) the number and details of products identified to achieve the above objectives?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government have initiated various measures/steps for diversification of Jute products apart from exploiting the non-traditional markets all over the country which includes:

- (i) Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA)'s UNDP project entitled "Development and Promotion of the Diversified Enduses of Jute".
- (ii) Measures find out alternate uses of jute in packing tea, coffee, apples and production of jute carpets, jute blankets etc.
- (iii) A sum of Rs.10 crores has been set apart for product diversification and R&D support under the Jute Special Development Fund. Necessary action has been initiated for introduction of an Internal Market Assistance Scheme for diversified jute products. Besides, this projects of Research Institutions for development of new jute products have also been taken under the scheme.

Income Tax Relief on Acquisition of Plot and Construction of House

839. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether income tax relief is being given for investment made by Government employee/private individual in the acquisition of plot and construction of house;

(b) if so, to what extent and the details of the relief being granted;

(c) whether it is applicable for the urban and rural areas both; and

(d) if not, the norms fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Under Section 80C(2) (h)(ii) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, as inserted by the Finance Act, 1987 with effect from 1-4-1988, any sums paid in the previous year by an assessee out of his income chargeable to tax for the purposes of purchase or construction of a residential house property the construction of which is completed after the 31st day of March, 1987, and the income from which is chargeable to tax under the head "income from house property" (or which would, if it has not been used for the assessee's own residence, have been chargeable to tax under that head), are allowable as deduction where such payments are made towards or by way of:-

- (a) Any instalment or part payment of the amount due to under any self-financing or other scheme of any development authority, housing board or other authority engaged in the construction and sale of house property on ownership basis; or
- (b) Any instalment or part payment of the amount due to any company or cooperative society of which the assessee is a shareholder or member towards towards the cost of the house property allotted to him; or