

would have been built by the Co-operative Housing Societies upto the 30th June, 1976.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) and (e). Due to the constraint of resources and low priority accorded to housing in the planning process, it has not been possible to draw a phased and time bound programme for solving the problem of housing in the country.

#### Statement

Low cost housing gets priority in policies and programmes of Housing and Urban Development Corporation, State Housing Boards etc. The various housing schemes introduced by this Ministry provide for financial assistance on easy terms for low cost housing.

2. To promote low cost housing, research and investigation for reduction in building cost has been stepped up in the country. New techniques and materials have been developed to achieve substantial reduction in building cost. Research findings in the field of low cost housing are being disseminated to the various executing agencies through a series of measures including symposia, get-together seminars, workshops, publications, putting up of demonstration houses and exhibition of low cost housing. The experimental Housing Scheme of the National Buildings Organisation provides financial assistance upto 100 per cent of the cost of experimental items of construction if the project incorporates new techniques and methods of construction. Rural Housing Wings of the National Buildings Organisation, located in the various regions of the country are also engaged in research and training work in the field of rural housing. They have put up clusters of demonstration low cost rural houses. The emphasis is on the utilisation of local building materials and minimising the use of scarce and costly materials.

#### Demand for Inquiry into I.I.T. Madras

73. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thorough investigation into the affairs and administration of Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has been demanded by some senior Professors and Scientists of the Institute; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). The Senate of the IIT Madras, which includes senior teachers also, has recently in a resolution expressed dissatisfaction over certain decisions taken by the Director. No enquiry has been demanded. However, the matter is receiving Government's attention.

#### Supply of nutritious food for Children

74. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 5 lakh children die every year in the country due to poor diet;

(b) if so, whether the Union Ministry is considering certain schemes with the cooperation of the Health Ministry to save the children from this;

(c) whether the Union Ministry is conducting any survey in this regard and supplying nutritious food for the children to save them; and

(d) what are the other steps being taken by the Union Ministry to save the children and also improve their health?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-

DER): (a) A statement by Dr. C. Gopalan, Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research in a recent lecture on "Nutrition and Public Health—the Current Indian Scene" that more than half a million children die in our country every year as a result of severe mal-nutrition", has come to the notice of the Government. In the same lecture, Dr. Gopalan has also stated that "for obvious reason it is difficult to obtain reliable data regarding the number of children that die in our country as a result of advanced mal-nutrition".

(b) The National Policy for children lays special emphasis on the provision of nutrition, immunization and other health services to children. The following nutrition intervention programmes are already being implemented in cooperation with the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Agriculture and Irrigation:—

(i) Special Nutrition Programme.

(ii) Mid-day Meals Programme.

(iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme.

(iv) Integrated Child Development Services Scheme.

(v) Prophylaxis against Nutritional Anaemia.

(vi) Prophylaxis against Blindness in children caused by vitamin A deficiency.

(vii) Applied Nutrition Programme.

(viii) (a) Research/Development of non-conventional protein resources such as development of Bala-har.

(b) Fortification and enrichment of foodstuff with essential vitamins minerals, amino acids and protein concentrates.

(c) Studies on consumption pattern and consumer acceptability of new food formulation.

(d) Nutrition Education, training mass-media campaigns and extension.

(c) (i) Nutritious food is supplied to the children of weaker sections of the society in some drought prone and tribal areas and urban slums under the schemes (i) to (iv) listed above. Nutrition Supplement consists of 300 calories and 10 to 20 grams of protein per child per day. Nutritious food is also given to pregnant women and nursing mothers. Nearly 19 million beneficiaries are covered under these programmes.

(ii) The diet and nutrition surveys are being carried out by the State Nutrition Division and the National Nutrition monitoring Bureau under the auspices of the Indian Council of Medical Research. A Research project has also been sanctioned to undertake "Survey" of Health and Nutritional Status of children in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) A Scheme is under consideration in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the treatment of severely mal-nourished children. This scheme proposes care in the following ways:—

(i) Hospitalisation

(ii) Nutrition Therapy Centres

(iii) Domiciliary treatment

Under this scheme, Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres are also proposed to be set-up at selected primary health centres.