

Lifting of restrictions on movement of wheat

141. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted the restrictions on the movement of wheat and have increased the procurement price of wheat against the decision of the Agricultural Prices Commission;

(b) if so, to what extent the restrictions on the movement of wheat has helped the farmer and the consumer;

(c) whether the increase has not benefited the farmer much as was promised to him by the Government; and

(d) what are the other incentives that are likely to be given to the farmer to produce more?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This will enable the farmer to get in the open market even a higher price than Rs. 110/- per quintal for wheat produced by him and will also ensure better market availability of wheat in deficit State also.

(c) So far as Government is aware, the increase in the procurement price together with the removal of movement restrictions has benefited the farmer.

(d) Apart from ensuring a remunerative price to the farmer for his produce, the question of providing further relief by way of subsidising inputs like fertiliser etc. is also being considered.

Refugees from Bangladesh

142. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many refugees who had come from Bangladesh and are staying in Assam and who have not been fully looked after due to the inadequate care and grant by the Ministry;

(b) if so, how many of such refugees are in the State;

(c) what steps Union Government are considering to rehabilitate them; and

(d) what is the total Central grants given by the Ministry so far for their welfare?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) All the refugees who came from Bangladesh since the declaration of Independence on 25th March, 1971 returned to that country when it was liberated and none are in Assam.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Creation of Nuisance to the Colonies in Delhi/New Delhi

143. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's decision to bring back the persons who had occupied the unauthorised places and were given alternative places in lieu thereof have again resettled in the old places;

(b) if so, whether this decision has once again created nuisance to the colonies in Delhi and New Delhi;

(c) whether people have once again started construction of additions and alterations in their houses which were demolished earlier as being built without permission of the Government; and

(d) whether any permission has been sought by them or this has been done as there is no fear now?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b). In some cases persons who had been provided alternative accommodation and who had constructed structures over plots allotted to them in J. J. Colonies have resettled in those places from where they were removed earlier. Over 500 fresh encroachments have already been removed by Delhi Development Authority.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected.

Housing problem in Assam

144. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether housing problem in the Assam State is very acute and the Government have not given much help to the State so far;

(b) if so, whether the Assam Government have been requesting the Centre to help the State for the development of land for low-income group so that they could build the houses; and

(c) what is the total loan so far granted to the State for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) to (c). The Government of Assam have reported that the housing problem in major urban areas of the State is very acute while in rural areas it is moderate.

Except the Subsidised Housing Scheme for plantation Workers, which is in the Central sector, all other social housing schemes, including the Low Income Group Housing Scheme, are in the State sector. From 1st April, 1969, Central financial assistance for all State sector programmes, in-

cluding housing, is released to the State Governments in the shape of 'block loans' and 'block grants' without their being tied to any particular scheme or head of development. The State Governments are free to earmark funds for various State sector schemes including housing, according to the requirements and priorities to be determined by them. Under the Central sector Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers, a sum of Rs. 206.40 lakhs (Rs. 76.17 lakhs as grant and Rs. 130.23 lakhs as loan) has been released to the State Government upto 1976-77 for its implementation. Besides Central block assistance and the funds released under the Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers, the Ministry of Works and Housing allocated L.I.C. loans amounting to Rs. 218.53 lakhs upto 1976-77 to the Government of Assam for implementation of various social housing schemes. Further, Housing and Urban Development Corporation had also sanctioned loans amounting to Rs. 145.07 lakhs to the executing agencies in the State, but all the schemes had later been withdrawn by the concerned agencies in the State. Two new Schemes have been received by HUDCO for assistance.

Scheme to acquaint Primary and Secondary school teachers regarding 10+2+3 system of education

145. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have introduced a correspondence course for primary and secondary school teachers to acquaint them with the intricacies of the 10+2+3 system of education;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) whether Government have opened any cell in the Education Department to keep a close watch on