

HUDCO acts mainly as a financing institution for State Housing Boards and other agencies the HDFC would also provide direct finance to prospective house owners.

(c) The HDFC will initially have an authorised share capital of Rs 25 crores and issued, subscribed and paid up share capital of Rs 10 crores. Contribution to equity capital is being arranged from companies, corporations and individuals through a public issue. This is expected to be made shortly. The corporation will develop working procedures for evaluation of proposals, disbursements of assistance and collection of loans. The system would be developed after studying the operating procedures in force in similar organisations. The Corporation has not yet started functioning.

(d) The corporation will initially open regional offices in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras to look after western, eastern, northern and Southern zones in the country.

Additional Supplies of Foodgrains to Mizoram

1005 DR R ROTHUAMA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of impending food crisis caused by THINGTAM FAMINE (Flowering of one big variety of bamboos) occurring this year resulting in complete failure of the harvests throughout Mizoram due to destruction of crops by rats which multiply in large numbers overnight

(b) whether Central Government are aware that this peculiar phenomenon occurring in Mizoram in a cyclical pattern, the mishandling of which way back in 1960 (Mautam Famine—Ordinary bamboo flowering) had given rise to the present underground movement, and

(c) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Central Government to meet food shortage and other essential commodities in Mizoram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir. In view of the Bamboo Flowering in certain parts of Mizoram and on the basis of the past experience it seems that the rodent population may increase.

(b) In 1959 the then Mizo Hills district of Assam State had to face acute scarcity and amongst other organisations which were formed to face the situation an Organisation called Mizo National Famine Front was formed which later renamed itself as Mizo National Front, and agitated for attaining independence for Mizoram.

(c) All possible measures for control of rodents menace are being taken throughout Mizoram. This includes use of several types of traps and rodenticide. It is hoped that with the technical advice and financial assistance from the Centre the State Government will be able to avert possible rodent outbreak and prevent the anticipated crop loss. The public distribution is being strengthened and in view of the comfortable stock the requirements indicated by the State Government for allocation of foodgrains are being met in full.

Conversion of verandahs into shops in Bhagat Singh Market New Delhi

1006 SHRI D G GAWAI Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state

(a) whether in New Delhi Verandahs in Markets were got cleared of encroachments by the shopkeepers and declared public passages

(b) whether after the recent Parliamentary elections most of the Shopkeepers in Bhagat Singh Market and