

Houses for Tea Plantation Labourers

7061. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:
SHRI M. P. SAYEED:
SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of pucca houses for labourers in the tea gardens has been held up due to the Central Government's ambiguous policy according to the tea industry sources;

(b) if so, whether according to them the house building has slowed down in recent years because the Union Government is not inclined to accept the tea industry plan to raise the subsidy ceiling from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,500;

(c) if so, how far this is true;

(d) whether they have made several representation to the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) to (e). Under the Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers, there is no ambiguity in the policy of the Central Government with regard to the ceiling costs of construction of Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 5,000 for a small two roomed and a regular two-roomed house respectively.

The Consultative Committee of Plantation Associations, Calcutta had represented for enhancement of the ceiling cost of construction under the scheme. But it was not found possible to accept the same, as acceptance of the same would mean construction of fewer dwelling units for the plantation workers, whereas the policy of the Government is to attain the ob-

jective of providing housing for as large a number of workers as possible with the limited financial resources.

However, with a view to reducing the cost of construction, the Associations have been advised to depute their representative for consultation with the National Buildings Organisation, who have the requisite expertise in the matter.

Ban on Cow-Slaughter in Kerala, West Bengal and Lakshdweep

7062. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether two State Governments of Kerala and West Bengal have rejected total ban on cow-slaughter;

(b) whether representation was made to the Prime Minister when he visited Lakshdweep that cow-slaughter should not be banned in the Union Territory of Lakshdweep;

(c) if so, whether Government has examined their representation in this regard; and

(d) whether these two State Governments and Union Governments and Union Territory of Lakshdweep will be permitted cow-slaughter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The two State Governments have not yet accepted the idea of a total ban on cow-slaughter.

(b) No formal representation has been submitted to the Prime Minister.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The subject is within the legislative competence of the State Governments.