

LOANS TO CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES

52. Shri Gidwani: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a great demand for loans from co-operative housing societies of displaced persons from West Pakistan and if so, what is the total amount demanded State-wise;

(b) why no arrangement has been made to meet the demand; and

(c) if Government have not got extra funds at their disposal, whether they have considered the desirability of diverting a portion of the funds for house construction by Government and semi-Government agencies to house construction by co-operative effort and if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) Yes. Information regarding the demands of different States for loans to Co-operative Housing Societies is being

collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). The policy of the Government is to give first priority to the housing schemes of D.Ps. who are without proper shelter i.e., those who are living by road-sides or in dharamsalas, schools, hospitals etc. It is not possible to meet the full demand of this category of D.Ps. and co-operative housing societies within the limited funds available with the Government.

HAND LOOMS

53. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of hand looms are lying idle in some States of the country; and

(b) if so, what would be the approximate number of such looms State-wise?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnaamachari): (a) and (b). Government have no information at present.