

(b) if so, how many such Houses were prepared and to what categories of the workers these houses were allotted; and

(c) what are the future plans in this regard and to what extent the weaker sections were helped by way of granting loans?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c). There is only one Central Sector Housing Scheme operated by the Ministry of Works and Housing, namely the Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers, under which 19,405 houses were constructed by the end of 1979 for allotment in six States of Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Tripura & West Bengal. In this scheme, the Central Government provides financial assistance to the extent of 87.5 per cent of the approved cost of construction of houses (50 per cent as loan and 37.5 per cent as subsidy). The Ministry of Works & Housing has proposed construction of a total of 64,000 houses during the Sixth Five Year Plan, but the actual number will depend upon the final allocation of funds under the Plan.

Demand Trunk Service from Delhi to Sambalpur

2828. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the considerable time likely to take to set up an auto exchange in Sambalpur (Orissa), Government propose to introduce Demand Trunk Service from Delhi to Sambalpur in view of the existing microwave system available in Sambalpur;

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) No. There is no proposal to introduce demand trunk service from Delhi to Sambalpur.

(b) Not applicable in view of answer at (a) above.

(c) The trunk traffic between Delhi and Sambalpur does not justify the provision of Demand service. On the average there is only one call from Delhi to Sambalpur per day.

Advertisement for the Sale of Plots Apartments

2829. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a spate of advertisements, in the newspapers, speculatively offering plots, cottages or apartments to people willing to make down payments for sites whose proper use is yet to be determined; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken if any, to ensure that the public is not cheated?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Speculation in farm lands was noticed and notifications have been issued under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, in respect of certain areas.

Filling up of vacancies in P&T Department

2830. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are numerous vacancies to be filled in the P&T Department;