

recast the rural development plan. The matter of providing employment opportunities in the rural area has already been dealt with in the 6th Plan. All efforts are, however, made to widen the scope for rural employment under the existing programmes in the States and the Centre.

Crash programme for Construction of Staff Quarters

163. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the crash programme for construction of 21,000 quarters for employees working in Delhi which was started in 1977-78 has not been properly implemented and the progress of construction of staff quarters is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that there has been an exorbitant rise in house rent in Delhi during the last 3 years and about fifty thousand employees in the low income group are awaiting still for allotment of Government accommodation;

(d) whether it is a fact that employees drawing pay exceeding Rs. 1000 are getting Government accommodation in Delhi immediately; and

(e) if so, what immediate action Government propose to take to remove such glaring disparities and provide Government accommodation to low paid employees with a very reasonable period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) and (b). The crash programme for construction of staff quarters in the 'General Pool' for the Central Government employees approved in July, 1978, included only 15,300 quarters for

Delhi. Actual construction of about 12000 quarters has already been taken up and that of about 1500 completed. The reasons for delay in construction of quarters are:

(i) Non-availability of critical material such as steel, cement and coal in requisite quantities;

(ii) Rise in cost of construction necessitating approval of revised estimates;

(iii) Non-vacation/delay in vacation of some quarters in DIZ area, which were to be demolished for construction of new quarters.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) All the quarters, construction of which has been commenced in Delhi, are for Central Government employees with pay not exceeding Rs. 1000/- p.m

Non-Availability of Quality Seeds

164 SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quality seeds are not available in the country even from Government agencies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is total absence of control on the sale of seeds and farmers have become victims of the menace of spurious seeds; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to develop and make available pure seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Steps have been taken to create infrastructure of seeds production, quality control and marketing

of physically and genetically pure seeds having certain specified minimum germination. Plan allocations for creation of above mentioned facilities have been increased several folds.

Flood in Assam

165. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN: DEV: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that flood havoc in Assam had resulted in submerging of large areas of Assam and details in this regard; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to effectively implement the flood control measures in the flood-prone regions of the North East which are subjected to the annual fury of the mighty rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). The floods in Assam are reported to have inundated an area of 1.76 Lakh ha, affecting a population of 9.47 Lakhs. The value of the total damage being Rs. 136.60 lakhs according to the assessment made so far by the State Government.

The major portion of the flood prone areas in North Eastern region is in the Brahmaputra and the Banak Valleys. The Assam Government has taken up a phased programme of stabilising the existing flood control works in addition to the execution of new works to protect the acute flood prone areas in both the Valleys. Investigation of some major storage reservoirs are also in hand which when executed will moderate the flood peaks, and thereby reduce the area affected by floods. A Master Plan for flood control as a part of the overall development of water resources for multipurpose benefits will be drawn up by the Brahmaputra Board being set up shortly.

Housing and Development Scheme Prepared by HUDCO For North Bengal Region

166. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Housing and Urban Development Corporation has prepared a blue print of housing and development schemes to cater to the needs of the North Bengal region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a high powered team of HUDCO recently visited the area and submitted a report and if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) and (b) The State agencies have identified certain Schemes to be taken up with HUDCO Assistance. The Schemes identified are social housing schemes for the needs of economically weaker sections of the Society and low income groups at Jalpaiguri, Site & Services Schemes for the Satellite Township Area, Rural Housing schemes, Staff Housing schemes for Police Personnel, Shopping-cum-Commercial Complex at Siliguri and Staff Housing Schemes for North Bengal State Transport Corporation.

(c) A high level team from HUDCO visited North Bengal between 13th to 16th July, 1981 and had discussions with the officials of State Government, Siliguri, Jalpaiguri Development Authority, Jalpaiguri Zilla Parishad, Darjeeling Municipality, etc. The details of the various Schemes are yet to be prepared with HUDCO's assistance. This has been further taken up with the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal.