

### Construction of Houses in Urban Areas to be Let out on Rent

1370. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal before the Government to construct large number of houses in Urban areas to be let out on rent to meet the requirement of people going on transfers etc. and

(b) if not, how does the Government propose to overcome the acute shortage in housing the poor and middle class people in urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Government however, operates a scheme of General Pool Housing for the benefit of Central Government Employees only.

(b) Housing is a State subject, Provision for development activities including housing is made in the Annual Plan of the State Governments but the State Governments formulate and implement housing schemes, subject to the policy guide-lines in the Sixth Five Year Plan according to its needs and priorities. Financial assistance for housing is also available from Life Insurance Corporation, General Insurance Corporation and Housing and Urban Development Corporation.

### Supervision over Civil Supplies Corporation in States

1371. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of supervision being exercised by the Civil Supplies Department of the Government of India over the different Civil Supplies Corporations in the States which are distributing the essential commodities like wheat, rice and sugar, particularly when wheat, rice and sugar are

supplied to the States from the Central Buffer stock;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some States the Civil Supplies Corporations are also entrusted with the implementation of Food for Work Programme; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Centre to formulate guidelines for the State Civil Supplies Corporations so that they are able to distribute effectively the essential commodities and not undertake other activities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY):

(a) and (c). The Civil Supplies Corporations are agencies of the respective State Governments and entrusted with the work of procurement and supply of certain essential commodities under the public distribution system. As the organisation and administration of public distribution system is the responsibility of the States/UTs it is for the State Governments to exercise due control and supervision over the various agencies nominated for this purpose by them, including Civil Supplies Corporations, so as to ensure proper distribution of essential commodities and other tasks entrusted to them. No direct supervision is therefore exercised by this Ministry over the State Civil Supplies Corporations. However the performance of these Corporations comes up for discussion and assessment at the time of review of the functioning of the public distribution system by the Central Government with the respective State Governments.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### Imposition of Levy on Wholesale Rice

1372. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the centre has advised the States to impose levy on wholesale