

calised shortage in any commodity can not be ruled out.

(c) This is the function of the income-tax authorities. Under the Delhi Specified Articles (Regulation and Distribution) Order, 1981 under which the licences are issued for the fair-price shops, there is no provision to check the assets of the fair-price shop holders. However a constant vigilance is maintained by the Delhi administration over the functioning of the fair-price shops to check diversion of rationed articles to unauthorised channels.

(d) Appropriate steps have been taken to ensure adequate availability of vanaspati in loose form through licensed retailers against food cards. Licensing of retailers is necessary to check malpractices and to ensure accountability.

Low cost houses for the weaker Section for the Rural and Urban Areas

4527. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of construction of a low cost house at 1981 rates to be constructed for the economically weaker section of the people for the rural areas and urban areas respectively; and

(b) what is the financial assistance given to the people to construct the same under various Schemes by the State Government under Central Government Assistance?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) During 1981-82 (as on 31-1-82) the average all-inclusive cost of construction of dwelling units for EWS in HUDCO assisted projects

is Rs. 3,945 and Rs. 7,952 in rural and urban areas respectively.

(b) No Central Government assistance is provided to the States for direct financial assistance to the people for EWS housing. The Plan allocation are made available to the State Governments as 'block loans' and 'block grants'. However, the State Governments may avail of loan assistance for housing, including EWS housing, from Housing & Urban Development Corporation, Life Insurance Corporation, General Insurance Corporation and Scheduled Commercial Banks.

Fines imposed on wholesale sugar licences

4528. SHRI SHEO SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1270 on 1st March, 1982 regarding Cancellation of sugar licences in Delhi Cantt. area and state:

(a) how many wholesale sugar licencees in Delhi were fined for not trading in sugar in the first half of 1981 at what rate and under what rule/order together with details thereof;

(b) steps taken to refund the amounts of penalty imposed thereon;

(c) was the matter taken up by some of the Members of Parliament with the Commissioner, Food and Supplies, Delhi without any response; and

(d) if so, reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) No wholesale sugar licencee in Delhi was fined for not trading in sugar during the first half