

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

of 1981. The licensing Authority, in fact has no powers to impose fine on a sugar licensee. For contravention of the provisions of the Delhi Sugar Dealers Licensing Order, whole or part of security deposit can be forfeited depending upon the gravity of the default.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) One Member of Parliament took up the matter with the Commissioner, Food and Supplies, Delhi Administration on 25th January, 1982 and the Commissioner sent a reply to him on 5th February, 1982.

(d) Does not arise.

Use of Agricultural land for Non-Agricultural purposes

4530. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are concerned over the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes like construction of bungalows: and

(b) if so, efforts being made by Government of India for full utilisation of agricultural land for agricultural purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM):

(a) and (b). The Government of India have advised State Governments to limit acquisition of land to the minimum. They have pointed out that the availability of good agricultural land being limited, it will be in the public interest to conserve as much land as possible for agricultural production.

Sugar Quota on the Basis of 1971 Census

4531. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ration sugar quota of the States at present is calculated on the basis of 1971 census;

(b) whether the comfortable position with an expectation of the record yield of around 68 lakh tonnes of sugar has apparently enabled Union Govt. to take this decision;

(c) whether he has assured farmers of remunerative price and fair marketing and ware-housing facilities;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to adopt a policy for distribution whereby farmers would get consumer commodities at reasonable prices and at the door steps; and

(e) if so, what are the steps that are being taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) and (b). The existing state-wise monthly levy sugar quotas fixed in December, 1977 were based on a per capita availability of 425 grams with reference to the projected population as on 1-4-1978. In view of the anticipated sugar production of over 68 lakh tonnes during the current sugar year, the Government have decided, to give the state Governments and Union Territories with effect from 1-4-1982, levy quotas based on a per capita availability of