

(b) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Government has undertaken R & D and demonstration projects for alternate fuels/fuel systems for surface transport. These include demonstration project, which was taken up in Delhi under which 93 petrol vehicles of National Capital Territory of Delhi were operated with a blended fuel of 90% petrol and 10% monoxide anhydrous ethanol. This project demonstrated reduction in carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emission in exhaust gas by 30% to 50%, besides reducing consumption of petrol. Another project is underway of State Transport Undertakings for reducing consumption of diesel and smoke emissions. Operation of battery operated vehicles has been taken up in Delhi for carrying passengers in congested areas and Govt. officials in CCO-North Block route. Incentive scheme for industrial and passenger battery operated vehicles is also being taken up for various beneficiary organisations, including State Nodal Agencies, cooperative societies, public sector Undertaking, private limited companies etc.

Accommodation to Voluntary Organisations

5325. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any criterion has been fixed in the allotment of General Pool accommodation for the social voluntary organisations and social workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of such social and voluntary organisations and social workers and other persons to whom accommodation has been allotted and the dates when such allotment were made to them and the criterion thereof; and

(d) the names of the persons/organisations to whom such accommodations have been allotted during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 and whether all aspects have taken into account while making these allotments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) there are no guidelines for allotment to Social Voluntary Organisations. Allotment is made with the specific approval of competent authority on merits of each case. Guidelines for allotment of General Pool Accommodation to Social Workers are given in Statement attached.

(c) and (d) Information is being compiled will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Guidelines for Allotment of General Pool Accommodation to Miscellaneous Categories (Persons Engaged in Useful work of National Standing)

(a) Upto 10 houses in all as per existing decision may be allotted to these categories of persons who are engaged in useful work of national standing provided :-

- (i) he/she or any member of the family or dependent does not own houses or plot of land in Delhi;
- (ii) the case is specifically recommended by the concerned Ministry with the approval of the Minister-Incharge;
- (iii) total income of person from all sources is not more than Rs. 3,000/- p.m.;
- (iv) the type of accommodation would be restricted to type-D.
- (v) licence fee should be charged under FR-45-B with departmental charges;
- (vi) the person concerned should not be in regular employment under the Government or any other semi-Government/private organisation;
- (vii) the duration of allotment would be for three years and no extension beyond this period should be allowed.

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

5326. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to refer to USQ No. 2365 dated July 31, 1996 and state :

(a) the details of names of schemes recommended and amount recommended and dates of schemes submitted to the district administration for Palamu and Garhwa by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament of the Palamu Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar in the Tenth Lok Sabha;

(b) the reasons for clearance of only 76 schemes out of 139 schemes submitted to the Palamu Administration;

(c) the date on which the model code of conduct for election came into effect;

(d) the date on which the administrative clearance was given to 76 recommended schemes by the above administration;

(e) the time to be taken for providing technical and administrative clearance for any scheme after being received by the district administration;

(f) the persons who are guilty for escalation in cost of the projects as a result of not providing administrative clearance in time by the Palamu district administration; and

(g) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) the model code of conduct for elections came into effect from 19.3.96.

(e) The guidelines on the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme do not stipulate any time limit for issuing technical and administrative clearance by the District administration. It should, however, be the endeavour of every District Collector to issue such sanctions at the earliest.

(b) to (g) As already informed in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2365 put down for answer on 31.8.96, of the works recommended by Shri Ram Dev Ram, MP of the 10th Lok Sabha from Palamu Parliamentary constituency, 77 works were recommended prior to 28.1.96. Rest of the works were recommended on 28.1.96 or thereafter. Of the 77 schemes recommended, prior to 28.1.96. Rest of the works were recommended on 28.1.96 or thereafter. Of the 77 schemes recommended, prior to 28.1.96, 76 schemes were sanctioned and executed by the District Collector of Palamu District. One scheme could not be sanctioned as it was not found to be permissible under the guidelines. The schemes recommended on or 28.1.96 were also initially processed and sent for preparation of plans and estimates. However, further action could not be taken due to the imposition of the model code of conduct. In view of these circumstances, there does not, prima facie, appear to be any cause for taking action.

[English]

Rent

5327. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have data on the rent of residential accommodation in the towns and cities with population of 500,000 and more;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to bring down rents to affordable levels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The main cause for the sharp increase in rent is the gap in demand and supply of housing. Housing being a State Subject, State Governments are responsible for increasing the housing stock by implementation of various housing schemes as per their plan priorities and available resources. However, the Central Government have initiated several steps to create an enabling environment for increasing supply land and rental housing which is expected to help in bringing down the rents of residential accommodation, such as :

- Model Rent Control Legislation formulated and circulated to the States.
- Model Apartment Ownership Bill formulated and circulated to the States.
- Amendments to Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act under consideration
- Flow of housing finance has been increased through HUDCO, NHB, Commercial banks, etc. for increasing housing delivery.

Promotion of Section Officer to Under Secretary

5328. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether eight years service as Section Officer is the statutory requirement for promotion to the post of Under Secretary;

(b) if so, the number of Section Officers who are eligible for the next promotion as Under Secretary;

(c) the number of vacancies lying vacant; and

(d) the date by which these will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. According to the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) Rules, 1962, 8 years is the minimum eligibility service for a section officer of CSS for being considered for promotion to the Under Secretary Grade.

(b) The Section Officers' Grade is decentralised amongst 33 cadres, each cadre consisting of one or more