

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (PROF. D. P. CHATTO-PADHYAYA) : (a) No formal recommendations have so far been received by the Government. It is understood that a Seminar Committee of this Conference is engaged in finalising the draft recommendations.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Housing Problem in big Cities

1716. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government considered any measure to ease the housing problem in the big cities ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Since 1952, this Ministry have introduced and operated through the State Governments six social housing schemes which aim, primarily, at relieving the housing shortage in urban areas including the big cities.

In Delhi which is in the Union Territory, the Delhi Development Authority was established in 1957 and Rs. 5 crores revolving fund were made available for undertaking large-scale acquisition and development of land for housing as also for construction of houses for the general public. Similarly, the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority has been established in 1970 to undertake various urban development and housing programmes in the Calcutta Metropolitan area. A provision of Rs. 150 crores has been made by the Central Government for execution of these programmes in Calcutta during the Fourth Plan period.

Further to give a fillip to various housing and urban development programmes in the country, a Central Government undertaking called the Housing and Urban Development Corporation was established in April, 1970. A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been made in the Fourth Plan for contribution towards the equity capital of the Corporation.

The Government have also decided to introduce a new scheme in the Central sector in 1972-73 for providing 100% Central assistance to the State Governments for improvement of slums in Metropolitan cities.

Disposal of Sewage

1717. SHRI P. GANGADEB :
SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is exploring possibilities of alternative methods of disposing of sewage now being drained into rivers ; and

(b) if so, whether his ministry has asked the Agricultural Commission to go into the feasibility of converting sewage into fertiliser ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (PROF. D. P. CHATTO-PADHYAYA) : (a) The Ministry of Health and Family Planning have decided to set up a Committee to study the problem of disposal of city refuse and night soil and its use for agricultural purposes under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman, Vice-Chairman, National Commission on Agriculture.

(b) No.

Additional Buffer Stock of Foodgrains

1718. SHRI RAMKANWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to increase the buffer stock of foodgrains ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ; and

(c) wherefrom the additional money is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) The question of upward revision of the target for buffer stock is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise at this stage

Sale of Sugar in Free Market

1719. SHRI RAMKANWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total percentage of sugar production in the country which is allowed to be sold in the free market and whether Government are taking initiative to bring this quantity also under the category of sale with Government's permission ;

(b) whether the sugar industry has sharply reacted to this proposal ; and

(c) whether attention of Government has been invited in this regard to a report in the Economic Times of the 15th January, 1972, and if so, reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b) There is no statutory control on price or distribution of sugar. However, the sugar industry, both in the joint stock and cooperative sectors, has agreed on an informal basis to make available sixty per cent of sugar released every month, at a fixed price to meet emergent requirements and for distribution to domestic consumers through fair price shops. They have also agreed to earmark 3.5 per cent of the quota at the same price for export. The quantity available to them for sale in the open market is 36.5 per cent of the monthly released quota. Early in January, 1972, when the prices of free sale quota of sugar rose steeply, the Government suggested to the industry that the ex-factory prices of free sale sugar should not go beyond a reasonable limit. The industry replied that on account of the differences in the cost of production of sugar in different parts of the country, it had not been possible for them to arrive at an agreed decision among themselves in regard to a uniform ceiling price for free sale sugar applicable all over India.

(c) The Government have seen the report in "The Economic Times" of 15th January, 1972. Subsequent to this, the prices of free sale sugar showed a downward trend. However, the prices have again recorded a steep

rise since the beginning of March 1972. The matter is again under consideration.

Coaching-Cum-Guidance Centres for S. C. and S. T. Candidates

1720. SHRI V. MAYAVAN : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey of coaching-cum-guidance centres for assisting Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates has been completed as anticipated by the end of 1971-72 ; and

(b) if so, the results of the survey and the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates who were given guidance and coaching ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMI) : (a) and (b) No Survey in regard to Coaching-cum-Guidance Centres has been made

A Survey was, however, conducted through the Directorate General of Employment and Training of the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation to investigate the policy of reserving vacancies for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes applicants to the vacancies in the Central Ministries and their Departments with the objective to find out *inter alia* the reasons for vacancies remaining unfilled and evolving measures for filling up all the reserved posts.

The Survey work has since been completed and the report is still under finalisation.

Office Accommodation for Unrecognised Labour Unions in Paradip Port Trust Area

1721. SHRI DEVENDRA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in spite of clear orders of Government of India that unrecognised Labour Unions will be given office accommodation in the Port Trust Area, the Chairman, Paradip Port Trust has recommended to the Paradip Port Trust Board to give office accommodation to some of the unrecognised Labour Unions in Paradip Port area ; and