

**PRIVATE RESOURCES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES**

2520. SHRI D. C. SHARMA : Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of attracting private resources for the construction of houses in the country has been considered;

(b) if so, with what results;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up a national council for regional and urban development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) :

(a) and (b). Yes. The matter was considered at the Conference of the Ministers of Housing, Town Planning and Urban Development held at Madras recently. A statement giving extracts of the recommendations, on the subject, made by the Conference is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library See No. LT-1811/67.*]

These recommendations will be processed in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries and authorities and the Governments of the States and the Administrations of Union Territories.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

**DEGENERATION DISEASES IN INDIA**

2521. SHRI D. C. SHARMA : Will the Minister for HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that degeneration diseases are spreading rapidly in India;

(b) if so, whether Government have looked into the causes of these diseases;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these diseases are on the increase due to lack of milk, butter and ghee; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to encourage the increased use of these articles ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) :

(a) There is no study or other evidence to indicate a rapid spread of degeneration diseases in India;

(b) Adverse effects of malnutrition tend to produce degeneration diseases.

(c) Of the various types of nutritional deficiencies, protein-calorie malnutrition has been found to be mainly responsible for causing such diseases.

(d) A coordinated approach towards the problem of malnutrition is being undertaken by the various Departments of the Government with the help of international agencies. This comprises supplementary feeding programmes amongst the vulnerable sections, production of nutritious processed food and its distribution, increased production of food in every possible manner, nutrition, education and extension, applied nutrition programmes and treatment and screening of early cases of malnutrition. The following measures are adopted to improve the level of nutrition among children :

(1) Supplementary feeding is provided through the following programmes which are run with the aid of various agencies :—

(i) Feeding under the Applied Nutrition Programme;

(ii) Feeding through Balwadis;

(iii) CARE feeding programme; and

(iv) UNICEF milk feeding programme.

(2) Imparting nutrition education to the mothers to enable them to utilise commonly available cheap foods for providing nutritious diet to their children.

(3) Treatment of early cases of malnutrition through M.C.H. Centres.

(4) The Department of Food have taken steps to combat protein malnutrition among children and other