

of Secretary, Ministry of Power has submitted its report recently. Ninth Five Year Plan which is under finalisation, would take into account the recommendation of the Working Group depending upon the feasibility of the projects and economy level considerations.

Construction of Duplex Apartments

658. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to demolish certain "Lutyen's bungalows of preindependence and construct duplex apartments there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objective behind this move; and

(d) by when the work of demolition/construction is likely to start?

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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Merger of PFC and IDFC

659. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to merge Power Finance Corporation (PFC) with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC);

(b) if so, the advantages of merging these two financial institutions; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) There is presently no proposal under consideration to merge the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Package Programme

660. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State which have been included in the Package Programme for carrying out development works;

(b) the nature of assistance extended to these States;

(c) the amount of assistance provided to the hilly

regions like Kashmir and Eastern States as per the announcements made by the Hon. Prime Minister for providing crores of rupees to these States for the implementation of the schemes;

(d) the number of people provided assistance so far; and

(e) the details thereof, State-wise?

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) to (e) The Prime Minister has recently announced programmes/schemes/projects for the economic development of the Seven North Eastern States viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The details of the New Initiatives announced for the North Eastern States are at Statement-I enclosed. As regards J & K, the Prime Minister had made announcements on the Floor of Parliament on 23rd July, 1996 and 2nd August, 1996. A further statement was made by the Prime Minister regarding J & K during his visit to Jammu on 14th February, 1997. A copy of the statement made on 14th February, 1997 is at Statement-II enclosed. The details of Central assistance for various projects/schemes etc. are contained in the above announcements. Since infrastructure projects have also been announced, the details regarding the number of people assisted under such various programmes/schemes cannot be easily estimated.

Statement-I

New Initiatives for North Eastern Region

My first visit to the Seven states of the North-East has come to an end. To me this has been a very moving experience. The warmth of the people here will bring me back. I came to the area to know the people their aspirations, their problems, how they feel and what they think. I came with an open mind. I am going back with pleasant memories and with a firm resolve to work with the people to mark a new beginning in the development of this region. Wherever I went, the people from different sections of the society came and met me in large numbers. They were friendly and frank in expressing their views, their desires, their apprehensions and their hopes. The warmth which they extended throughout my visit has really overwhelmed me.

I am fully convinced that the problems can be resolved if all of us work together and look ahead jointly towards a better future. I am thankful to the people for showing so much love and affection for me during the visit.

I have also met at each Capital, a cross-section of people like leaders of political parties, chiefs of autonomous

Text of the Prime Minister Shri H.D. Devegowda's statement on new industries for North-Eastern Region at a Press conference at Gowahati on October 27, 1996.