

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3952  
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2009  
LAND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES  
Singh Shri Uday Pratap

**Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government has issued instructions to State Governments to identify vacant land in key cities for construction of houses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Governments thereto;
- (c) whether it is proposed to hand over vacant/unused lands to local development authorities for construction of houses; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which the shortage of houses are likely to be met?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT(SHRI SAUGATA ROY)

(a)to(d): Pursuant to the resolution adopted by the National Conference of State Ministers of Housing, Urban Development and Municipal Administration on `Affordable Housing for All` held on 21.01.2009, a communication has been sent to states on 24.03.2009 for initiation of steps in line with the resolution adopted at the Conference that availability of land for housing be augmented to meet the shortages and to keep pace with the increasing population in urban areas. Need for providing land for housing free of cost or at nominal cost for Economically Weaker Sections(EWS); and at controlled prices for the Low Income Group(LIG) and Middle Income Group(MIG) acknowledged at the Conference and review of existing legal and regulatory framework with a view to enabling acquisition and assembly of additional land adopted by the Conference have also been highlighted in the communication.

`Land` and `Colonisation` being State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to take measures for increased supply of land for adequate shelter. However, in line with the resolution adopted at the National Conference of State Ministers of Housing, Urban Development and Municipal Administration on `Affordable Housing for All` held on 20.01.2009. Central Government has launched a new scheme of `Affordable Housing in Partnership` for providing Central Assistance to States to incentivise land assembly for affordable housing to promote development of projects for affordable housing units by provision of central assistance of 25% for the cost of provision of civic services at an approximate cost of Rs.5,000 crores to central budget.