

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3643
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2009
HIGH LEVEL TASK FORCE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the High Level Task Force on affordable housing constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Deepak Parekh has submitted its Report;
- (b) if so, the details and recommendations thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to implement its recommendations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA)

(a)to(c): Shri Deepak Parekh, Chairman of the High Level Task Force on 'Affordable Housing' has presented the report on 29.12.2008. The Task Force has noted that housing is central to economic growth and has multiplier effects on employment and poverty reduction. It has estimated that alleviating the urban housing shortage could potentially raise the rate of growth of GDP by at least 1-1.5 percent and have a decisive impact on improving the basic quality of life.

The Task Force has therefore, strongly recommended the need for 'Affordable Housing', defined affordability and given recommendation on strategy to reach this goal. Inter alia its recommendations are to treat affordable housing as a 'public purpose' for obtaining land and finances; give preference to in situ development of slums; continue Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with 100% increase in funding; promote rental housing; and consider creating a housing micro finance market and a company. The recommendations include fiscal concessions to reduce housing costs to affordable levels.

Pursuant to receipt of the Report, the Ministry had set up a Committee under Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation to examine the recommendations made by the Task Force and take a view in the matter.

The recommendations of the said Committee have been received and further follow up action has been initiated by the Ministry in respect of such recommendations which fall within the domain of the Ministry. Inter-Ministerial/ inter-departmental consultations are being held on the recommendations involving pan-Government issues.