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[English]

Property for Rent

3339. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated percentage of property available for rent in the Union Capital Territory falls beyond the purview of the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1995, by virtue of carrying higher-rent than the upper limit of Rs. 3500 per month;

(b) whether there is any move to raise the upper rent limit to a realistic to make the law meaningful in respect of atleast 50% of the rented property; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the unhealthy practices prevailing under what is called the Pagri system ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) This Ministry does not collect data regarding property available on rent that falls beyond purview of the Delhi Rent Act by virtue of carrying higher rent than the upper limit of Rs. 3500 per month as fixed in Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958 as amended in 1988. However, as per the sample survey (NSS 49th round) conducted by N.S.S.O. in 1993, the percentage of households in terms of monthly rent along with average rentals was as follows :-

Monthly Rent (Rs.)	Average Rents	Percentage of Households
0 - 50	21.00	10.30
50 -100	69.00	24.50
100-250	176.00	07.50
250-500	364.00	23.90
500-800	637.00	13.60
800 & above	1382.00	08.40

(b) There is no proposal at present to raise the said upper limit of monthly rent because the existing limit of Rs. 3500 would include the tenants belonging to EWS, LIG and most of the tenants in the MIG categories.

(c) Practice of PAGRI has been highlighted from time to time in the representations received by the Government.

Setting up of Aviation Safety Directorate

3340. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has decided to set up an Aviation Safety Directorate to investigate transgressions of air safety; and

(b) if so, the main functions of this Directorate ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main functions of the Aviation Safety Directorate will be :

i) to undertake accident prevention activities;

ii) to initiate hazard identification and elimination process for achieving better safety standards in aviation;

iii) to initiate safety awareness programmes among the personnel of AAI and at airports;

iv) to investigate in house Airport incidents;

v) to assist Director General of Civil Aviation or any other legally appointed Accidents Investigation Board in the conduct of the investigation.

Rolling Mills

3341. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of rolling mills in the country are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save such rolling mills from closure ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) and (b) As per available information, out of 1061 re-rolling units, 396 units are reportedly closed for various reasons, such as rise in input costs, electricity tariffs etc.

(c) As the steel industry has been delicensed and controlled, its fortunes depend entirely on market conditions. Within the industry, fortunes of individual companies depend upon a host of factors including the market strategies adopted to face competition. It is, however, expected that demand conditions for steel would improve consequent upon measures announced in the Budget for 1998-99 relating to import duties, housing and infrastructure sectors.

US invitation to Defence Minister

3342. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI CHANDULAL AJMEERA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. Defence Secretary has invited the Defence Minister to explore the outlook for bilateral relationship; and