

**Private Sector Participation in Housing**

174. SHRISRIKANTHA DATTA MARA-SIMHARAJA WAIDYAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to promote housing during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to involve private sector in the promotion of housing;

(c) whether it is also proposed to simplify the existing procedure of providing assistance to various groups of people in building their houses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Housing is a State Subject. However, in terms of the National Housing Policy, various steps have been taken, such as: (i) supplementing the plan provision by the supply of housing finance through the National Housing Bank, HUDCO and other financial institutions. (ii) increase the supply of developed land, (iii) specific schemes to benefit the shelterless in rural and urban areas. (iv) schemes for shelter upgradation and low cost sanitation. (v) augmenting supply of building materials and extension of technical know how and (vi) removal of constraints to housing activity.

A detailed housing plan for the Eight Plan is being finalised.

(b) The present approach is that while public agencies will play increasing role in the development and supply of serviced land, the actual construction of houses will be done through private, cooperative and household sectors. Financial assistance for

legitimate private sector housing activity is available from the HUDCO and the commercial banks besides other forms of support.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. With a view to providing easy access to institutional financial assistance to various groups of people, the following steps have already been taken:-

i) National Housing Bank set up in 1988 has already introduced saving linked Home Loan Account Scheme. It has also formulated refinancing scheme for commercial banks.

ii) Lending norms of commercial banks for housing have been liberalised by the RBI, including acceptance of alternate forms of security.

iii) The State agencies have been advised to simplify the building regulations and other clearances and assist the poor households in shelter construction.

iv) Cooperative activity in housing is encouraged for various income groups.

[*Translation*]

**Iodised Salt**

175. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the instances which have come to the notice of Government where iodised salt in market is found without prescribed quantity of iodine;

(b) the action taken against the erring parties; and