

objective test must be necessary. Therefore, we have decided a regional film which has won national award alone will be shown. Now, I have slightly amended and added one more category, i.e. a regional film which is selected in the film festival panorama. 21 films are selected as best films for panorama for Indian film festival or international film festival. If it is included in the panorama, then it will be qualified to be selected for national telecast. Some objective test must be there. We have thought of these two tests.

If any film, in any other language which is not mentioned in the Constitution and has won the national award or has come in panorama, I am willing to consider.

MR. SPEAKER: Buta Singhji is asking about the Rajasthani film.

Reduction in Building Costs of Houses

*741. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Buildings Organisation has come out with indices of cost of building houses ;

(b) if so, whether these indices have shown considerable increase in construction costs in Delhi and other areas over the last five years ; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to reduce these costs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, these indices have shown an average increase of 16% per annum in the residential construction cost in Delhi and between 11% to 21% per annum in other important centres, namely Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Madras, Bhubaneswar, Patiala, Panaji and Trivandrum in respect of typical type of Residential Building Construction for low income group.

(c) The National Research Laboratories Like the Central Building Research Institute, Structural Engineering Research Centre have brought forth new construction techniques for improving durability and liability of houses alongwith reduction in cost of construction.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Sir, from the reply of the hon. Minister, it is quite clear that the construction cost of residential houses has gone up between 11% to 21% per annum. May I know from the Minister, the cumulative increase over the last 5 years ? I have asked for this information.

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Sir, there has been a tremendous increase in the cost of housing during the last five years. One of the main reasons for this is the increases in the cost of various house building materials from 1980 to 1985. For instance, the price of cement during this period has risen by 15.8 per cent, the price of timber by 22.6 per cent, the price of stone by 14.6 per cent, the price of iron by 13.7 per cent and that of sand by 13.1 per cent. Thus, the overall rise in cost has been 9.1 per cent. Therefore, the cost of housing has increased. As a result of our efforts, the N.B.O. has taken up construction work at 33 different places on the basis of new technique. The N.B.O. has undertaken research in the field of construction of houses for the weaker sections by using the locally available material so as to reduce the cost of construction. Not only this, we have demonstrated everywhere through the N.B.O. as to how good houses can be constructed at lower cost.

[English]

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : In reply to part (c) of my question, it is stated that the National Research Laboratories have suggested new techniques which will reduce cost of house building. May I know the percentage of reduction in costs of construction ?

I would like to know if any new tech-

nique has been suggested for brick manufacturing.

The hon. Minister has already mentioned all the important centres except Patna. Why so ?

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Not that we have left out Patna; on the contrary we are paying attention to all centres including Patna. But as I have just now stated, the cost of various building materials has risen during the last five years. If the hon. lady Member wants, I can give complete information carrying details of each aspect. For example, N. B. O. has conducted research on foundation work with Low-Cost Material, Lime Destabilised Mud Contents, Lime Contents, Volumes and in respect of various differences. In all, there are 25 items. If you permit me, I can read out all of them in the House.

[English]

SHRI D. N. REDDY : Is the hon. Minister aware that pre-fabricated material has been in vogue in Western countries since very long time thus reducing the cost and time of housings. Recently there was a Seminar of Engineers from all over the country here in Delhi about the same subject, pre-fabricated material to be used in housing. If so, has the Government taken notice of it and what are the recommendations and will the Government think of using this technique in our country ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): Already this year we have floated tenders for constructing 12,000 houses in Delhi alone with this new technique of pre-fabricated houses. We are going to have this experiment here in Delhi and we are sure if it succeeds it will spread through the whole of India.

Failure of Groundnut Crop in Saurashtra

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*744. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH :

SHRI R. S. MANE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to acute drought conditions, the groundnut crop in Saurashtra has failed completely ;

(b) the quantity of groundnut Saurashtra provides for extraction of edible oil in the country and the extent of loss of groundnut this year ;

(c) whether the shortfall in groundnut production will in any way affect the total availability of groundnut oil ; and

(d) if so, how it is going to be made up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Perceivable loss of groundnut crop during kharif 1985 is anticipated in Saurashtra region of Gujarat due to drought conditions.

(b) Saurashtra region of Gujarat on an average basis of preceding three years provides about 11 lakh metric tonnes of groundnut for extraction of edible oil. According to the information made available by Government of Gujarat, the production of kharif groundnut in this region during 1985-86 is anticipated to be around 3 lakh metric tonnes.

(c) and (d). Much of the loss in production of groundnut in Saurashtra region during 1985-86 will be covered by the higher production of rapeseed-mustard, soyabean and rabi/summer groundnut in the country.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : According to the figure given in the reply, the gap in the production of groundnut is 8 lakh metric tonnes this year. And the Government is optimistic that the shortage will be made good by the rapeseed-mustard, soyabean and rabi production in other parts of the country. May I know in this connection whether the Government has made any survey of the production of Soya-bean oil, what is the share that will be made up by this Soya-bean oil, how popular it has become in the general market as also other rapeseed-and