

(a) The anticipated revenue should be at least 25 per cent of ARE in ordinary areas, 15 per cent of ARE in backward areas, and 10 per cent of ARE in hilly areas.

(b) The anticipated loss should not exceed Rs. 2,000 p.a. in ordinary areas and Rs. 5000 in backward and hilly areas.

(10) All other stations

Condition for provision of Combined Offices.

On the basis of financial viability or on rent and guarantee in case of loss.

Note. 1. For considering the population figures, the population of the town or village alone should be taken into account and not that of a group of villages or towns except in tribal areas where a group of villages within a radius of 10 Kms. from a central village can be considered.

2. No telegraph office should be opened on loss if another telegraph office is already working within a 8 Kms. of the proposed office.

Houses for Weaker Sections in Karnataka

*323. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has approached the Central Government to solve the housing problems in the State particularly for the weaker sections of the society; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The Government of Karnataka sent a proposal in September 1979 seeking financial assistance amounting to Rs. 7.58 crores for construction of 12352 houses for the rural poor.

(b) The proposal was examined in consultation with the National Buildings Organisation and the deficiencies found therein together with suggestion for effecting some economies in the estimates were communicated to the State Government in November, 1979. The revised estimate is still awaited from the State Government.

Incentives to Sugar Industry

*324. SHRI BALASAMHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the representatives of Indian Sugar Mills Association and the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories were assured that the question regarding grant of incentives as per recommendations of Sampath Committee would be finalised soon;

(b) if so, what decision Government has taken in the matter and details thereof; and

(c) if no decision has been taken when it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Report of the inter-Ministerial Group constituted to review and revise the scheme of incentives introduced in December, 1975

to make the high capital cost units in the Sugar Industry—both new factories as also expansions—economically viable in the light of the changed parameters, has been received by the Government in the last week of May, 1980. Action to process the Report and to announce Government decision hereon has been initiated on priority basis.

Use of Staff car by D.D.A. Employees

2314. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) the category of Officers in the D.D.A. field and Secretariat who have been allotted Jeeps labelled as 'staff cars' for their use and if so, what are the number of such jeeps maintained by the DDA;

(b) which of these Officers are allowed to park these vehicles at their residences;

(c) whether the orders issued by the Ministry of Finance prohibiting the parking of vehicles at residences of officers do not apply to the DDA if so, why not;

(d) whether any measures are taken to prevent the misuse of such vehicles for private use if so, what; and

(e) whether this bank of free transport from residence to place of work and back at State expense is taken into account while calculating the income tax recoverable from such beneficiaries and if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The Delhi Development Authority have stated that their officers who are required to travel extensively have either been provided with staff cars or sanctioned conveyance allowance. The total number of jeeps maintained by the DDA is 47.

(b and c). No officer is allowed to park office vehicle at his residence without the specific sanction of the Vice-Chairman. No such sanction has so far been given.

(d) Log books are regularly maintained and supervised to avoid any misuse. Whenever any vehicle is used for private purposes, necessary deduction is made from the salary of the person who has so used the vehicle.

(e) For purposes of Income-Tax calculation at source, a standard rebate of Rs. 1,000 only is given to officers who are given official transport. Computation of perquisites is done by the Income-Tax authorities.

Progress of Prohibition in State

2315. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of prohibition in various States in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to certain loopholes, even where the States are dry, the drinkers find it as wet as ever; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that permits on medical ground are issued liberally while the hard drinkers are far and few?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Bihar, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu are totally, dry, Some States has declared certain areas as dry. Measures taken by other States vary and include steps like increase in number of dry days, banning of advertisement relating to liquor, reduction in the supply of potable alcohol etc.

(b) and (c). Dealing with persons infringing the law in dry States, is the responsibility of the State Government which is competent to take action against law-breakers. Similarly checking of wrong use of provisions for giving permits on medical grounds also lies within the ambit of State Government powers.