

### Houses for Harijans and Adivasis

\*420. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn some programme for providing Harijans and Adivasis with houses free of cost or at low cost; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). Housing is a State subject and it is primarily the States' responsibility to cater for this basic need of the people. All the social housing schemes except Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers are in the State sector. The role of the Central Government is confined to financial assistance to the States in the shape of 'block loans' and 'block grants' and issue of general policy guidelines.

### Linking of District Headquarters of Orissa with National Dialling Grid

\*421. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTRY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district headquarters of the State of Orissa which are provided with direct dialling facility and connected with national dialling grid;

(b) which of the district headquarters are proposed to be so connected during the years 1980 and 1981; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Puri which is a district headquarter and tourist centre has not been provided with dialling system although work to connect it has stated since years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) The District Headquarters town, Cuttack, has been provided with Subscriber Trunk Dialling facility and is connected with the national dialling grid to a limited extent.

(b) No other district headquarters during 1980 and 1981.

(c) It is a fact that Puri has not been equipped with subscriber trunk dialling equipment, the reasons being that the manual telephone exchange at Puri has to be replaced by an auto exchange, as a first step, before its connection to other places by direct dialling. No work in this respect has been possible yet because of limited availability of suitable equipment.

### Retrenchment of Employees of Central Fisheries Corporation

\*422. SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of employees of the Central Fisheries Corporation Ltd., a Government of India Undertaking have been facing retrenchment due to winding up of some units of the said Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many of the employees have been retrenched, and how many of them are likely to be out of jobs after winding up of some other units of the Corporation in future;

(d) whether Government have been planning anything for them; and

(e) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) to (c). No, Sir. Only 23 employees have been retrenched, on the closure of the Central Fisheries Corporation unit at Madras. However, if it is decided to wind up the Corporation then the number of regular employees likely to face retrenchment is 209.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The Government is trying to get the employees of the Central Fisheries Corporation absorbed in other public sector undertakings. So far, 73 employees have been absorbed in other undertakings. In case it is decided to wind up the Corporation, all efforts will be made to absorb them in other Corporations; otherwise they will be