

(b) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b). While the Government have made it clear to the Oil Companies that they do not see sufficient justification for accepting to the full extent the higher prices being charged for crude imports by the oil companies, Government have considered it necessary, nevertheless, in the present situation to allow on a provisional basis import of crude oil at June, 1971 prices to ensure adequate supplies of oil products.

SHRI N. E. HORO : May I know the reaction of these foreign oil companies to the step taken by Government ? Are they going to reduce the prices ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : We have not yet reaction of the companies.

SHRI N. E. HORO : The hon. Minister has said that Government have received no reaction. But the fact remains that these foreign oil companies are charging high prices for crude oil and they still go on using foreign exchange. I would like to know what vital justification Government see in giving them foreign exchange under these circumstances.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : We have made it very clear a number of times that whatever foreign exchange is being released is on a provisional basis. At the present juncture, it will not be prudent to import less crude oil, and, therefore, we are releasing the foreign exchange, so that the crude oil may not be reduced.

SHRI RAJA KULKARNI : In case the foreign oil companies decide to cut down the imports, how do Government propose to meet the situation ?

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : By nationalising them.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : This is a hypothetical question. When such a contingency arises, we shall take suitable action.

MR. SPEAKER : Such hypothetical questions need not be answered.

श्री सतपाल कपूर : इन आयल कम्पनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने के मार्ग में गवर्नमेंट के सामने क्या एकावट है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय . इस सवाल का जवाब तो रेडीमेड होना चाहिये आपके पास ।

श्री पी० सी० सेठी : इसका जवाब मैं कई बार दे चुका हूँ ।

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों विदेशों मुद्रा की माग करती है। बार बार यह बात सामने आई है कि आप तेल इंडियन आयल कम्पनी के जरिये मगाये और जो अरब में तेल वाले देश है और मध्य पूर्व के देश हैं उनको हमारे माल की जरूरत है, कपड़े की जरूरत है इजीनियरिंग गुड्स की जरूरत है और उन से हम रुपये में कारोबार भी कर सकते हैं, उन से तेल मंगाएँ। अपनी चीजों के बदले में हम वहाँ से इंडियन आयल कम्पनी के जरिये तेल मंगा सकते हैं। इससे विदेशी मुद्रा की भी बचत होगी और हमारे माल की भी बहा खपत होगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस में दिक्कत क्या है ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : I have pointed out a number of times that we are in search of an alternative source of crude. As far as the private companies are concerned, they have, according to the refinery agreement, the right to bring crude from their own sources. I have also said that the question whether the refinery agreement, this particular clause or entire agreement, has to be changed is under the review of Government.

Separate Allotment for Rural and Urban Sectors for Housing in the Fourth Plan

*1514. **SHRI RAJDEO SINGH :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not making separate allotment for Rural and Urban Sectors out of Rs. 193 crore, the total amount in the Fourth Five Year Plan for Housing ;

(b) whether these allotments to States are on population basis and States are required

to provide matching amounts ; and

(c) whether the State Governments are free to utilise the amount on schemes of their choosing or whether any programme is attached to the allotment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) The State Governments are free to allocate the approved outlay for Housing to different schemes in the rural and urban areas according to their own requirements and priorities.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No specific programme as such is attached to the approved outlays. The State Governments have complete freedom to formulate their housing programmes within the framework of the social housing schemes introduced by the Ministry of Works and Housing.

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : In what way are Government going to tackle the problem of rural housing which is gigantic if it is not on population basis ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I am in agreement with the hon. member that the problem is gigantic. But the difficulty is that ever since the beginning of the Fourth Plan, the Planning Commission has now taken an attitude that they do not give earmarked grants for projects like this. They give block grants and block loans. It is left to State Governments to allocate their priority. Personally, I am not very happy about it because I think housing is suffering a lot on account of this.

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Have Government information that housing funds allotted up till now have not been spent on other items by State Governments ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : As I said just now, unfortunately we do not earmark grants. So it is not called diversion. It is for the States to decide whether to spend it on housing or not. I wish they spend more on housing.

श्री एन० एन० पांडे : इस बात को देखते हुए कि हिन्दुस्तान के पांच लाख गांवों में अभी भी बहुत से ऐसे लोग हैं, जो झोपड़ियों में रहते हैं और ऐसी जगहों में रहते हैं, जो

रहने लायक नहीं है, क्या मंत्री महोदय हाउसिंग के सम्बन्ध में कोई नेशनल स्कीम बनाने पर विचार कर रहे हैं, जिस से सारे देश में गांवों की भी प्रगति उमी तरह से हो सके, जिस तरह दिल्ली को खूबसूरत बनाया जा रहा है ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I am in agreement with the view that the problem of housing in rural areas is more intense. As I said earlier, it is not even a question of housing ; at the moment, there is a huge majority of people who do not even have house sites. That is why for the rural areas now we are evolving schemes for giving 100 per cent aid to State Governments to acquire land and at least in the first phase give housing sites to the houseless.

श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : क्या निर्माण और आवास मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस बात का ओर गया है कि बाढ़ और वर्षा से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में गरीब लोगों के मकान बर्बाद हो गये हैं, यदि हां, तो या मुख्य मंत्रियों को इस तरह के आदेश दिये गये हैं, और उन को धनराशि उपलब्ध की गई है, जिस से उन लोगों के सिरों पर छप्परो की तत्काल व्यवस्था की जा सके ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : As I said, the issue falls entirely within the state sector. If the State Governments come forward with schemes for central aid, I am sure the Central Government will consider these sympathetically.

श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : अभी तक किन किन राज्यों के मुख्य मंत्रियों ने इस बारे में सहायता मांगी है और उस पर क्या विचार हुआ है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य इस बारे में एक नया सवाल लिख कर भेज दें।

DR. HENRY AUSTIN : In States where land reform have been implemented, landless labour have been given lands. The problem is that they have not been able to put up houses in those lands because they have not the whethewithal to do so. Will Government formulate a policy to enable these landless people in possession of surplus land to have houses built on them ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It is very unfortunate that the implementation of schemes is very meagre in the sense that even the allotment of house sites has been paltry. As I said in the debate on the Demands for Grants, about 6 States have taken steps and have expressed their desire to give house sites. But the total number allotted in all the 6 States is about 2,000. Therefore, the problem has not even been touched. If the problem is to be tackled and some sort of schemes are put forward for house sites and construction, we will be inclined to consider them very sympathetically.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : Sir, there are five basic necessities of life food, clothing, shelter, education and medical aid. The question of housing is no less important, which the citizens of any country would demand from a socialistic, democratic government for a comfortable, honourable but not luxurious living. I would like to know from the Government, how is it that they are not alive to this acute and alarming shortage of houses, and why is it that they are not going ahead with the building of cheap type of houses for the common man on a hire purchase term either in the public sector or through the building societies?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The approximate shortage of housing both in the urban and the rural areas is of the order of about nine crores. The dimension of this problem could be understood from that; even then, whatever is possible within the meagre resources, is being done. In the fourth Plan, Rs. 212 crores have been allocated for this purpose. We are of course paying a great deal of Central attention to Calcutta, for instance. In Calcutta, in the fourth Plan, we have allocated Rs. 40 crores for this purpose, and now we have raised it to Rs. 150 crores, so that in Calcutta at least the situation can be tackled well.

Delegation to Djakarta

*1517. **SHRI P. GANGADEB :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to send a Cabinet Minister to Djakarta to convey to the Indonesian Leaders the Implications of the massive influx of refugees from East Bengal and to seek Djakartats support to resolve the Bangla Desh crisis; and

(b) if so, whether the Minister is likely to visit Djakarta immediately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). As the Minister of External Affairs will be paying an official visit to Indonesia in the second week of August, 1971, in response to an invitation from the Indonesian Foreign Minister, there will be an opportunity to discuss this matter with the leaders of the Indonesian Government.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : In view of the situation, may I know whether Indonesia will wholly support India's action in regard to the Bangla Desh issue and the refugee problem?

MR. SPEAKER : You are anticipating things.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : As my colleague has pointed out, this matter will be discussed with Indonesia during my visit to Indonesia.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : That the Minister of External Affairs is going there is very good news. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether Pakistan, at this present juncture especially, would condescend to listen to the advice of Indonesia.

MR. SPEAKER : That does not arise. Mr Deb. Do not ask such questions out of this innocent interview.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA rose—

SHRI PILOO MODY : Bangla Desh has been mentioned, and Mr. Samar Guha must ask a question!

MR. SPEAKER : Please confine your question to the Minister's going to Indonesia.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : In view of the fact that the visit of our Cabinet Minister during the pre-election period in Indonesia—(Interruption)—Naturally the Indonesian Government could not commit themselves to anything, and the whole visit was infructuous. Now, after the election—(Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Now is it not a