

that under the 20-Point Programme we take special care for the economically weaker sections of society and everybody knows that for these categories of people how many houses have been built by the respective State Governments. It is not a Central subject; it is a State subject and funds are given to them. HUDCO is specially contributing more than 60 per cent towards this programme.

SHRI ANAND GAJAPATHI RAJU : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any specific measures are being taken to examine the Rent Control Act and various other Acts under housing and whether Government will resort to market borrowing in order to make the housing programme more dynamic for the simple reason that housing programme could be a growth point for the economy. Therefore, I would like to know how many mandays can be utilised either under the Food for Work Programme or other programmes and whether it will be included in the rural programme so that housing programme may be made more dynamic ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : That depends upon the general intelligence of the respective State Governments. So far as the question of Rent Control Act is concerned, I know that you are anxious about its amendment. In this session it is not going to be introduced. But I feel that in the near future we will place it before you and then we will discuss it. Lastly I only appeal to the hon. Members of this House...

MR. SPEAKER : Not to put more questions.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : ...if enough funds are made available we will do the work nicely.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Quarters where MPs are residing are in a perpetual state of repairs. Repairs have been undertaken but they are not completed. How long will it take to repair

them and provide some more amenities for Members' convenience ?

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : For the comforts of you people, we can do whatever you want.

[English]

SHRI SUKH RAM : Is the Minister aware that there was a proposal in the last Housing Ministers' Conference that loan ceiling had to be increased with regard to the hilly regions of the country ? If so, how much time will Government take to enhance the loan ceiling for hilly regions of the country ? The construction cost is comparatively higher in the hilly region. So, there was a proposal in that Conference that the loan ceiling be increased in order to accelerate the housing building activity in the hilly regions.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : You have given a good suggestion. So far as the question of bringing about improvement in Housing is concerned, you all know that research is being carried out at various places in the country as to which material should be used to provide small houses to the people at the minimum cost. So far as hilly regions, especially, Adivasis are concerned, we are considering how low cost houses could be constructed with Government's assistance by making use of locally available material.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is all. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

T.V. Relay Centre at Mandla

*183. **SHRI MOHAN LAL JHIKRAM :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mandla has been included in the list of the places where T.V. Relay Centres are proposed to be set up during the year 1985-86; and

(b) the steps taken for setting up the T.V. Relay Centre at Mandla ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b). There is no approved scheme, at present, to set up a T.V. Relay Centre at Mandla.

[English]

Re-evaluation of Blocks Included in Drought Prone Areas Programme

*186. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry are considering to re-evaluate the blocks included in the Drought Prone Areas Programme;

(b) whether Government propose to include all the blocks of Rajgarh District in Madhya Pradesh under the Drought Prone Areas Programme,

(c) whether Government have received a representation requesting that Rajgarh District be taken under the Drought Prone Areas Programme; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (d). On the recommendation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the Government have already increased number of Blocks under Drought Prone Area Programme, from 511 to 615 for 1985-86 for the Seventh Plan. There is no proposal for inclusion of any new Block at present. The whole matter will be reviewed at the time of mid-term Appraisal.

Construction of Cheap Houses by HUDCO in Bihar and Maharashtra during Seventh Plan

*187. DR. G.S. RAJHANS :
SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of HUDCO to build cheap houses in Bihar and Maharashtra during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether the sites have since been selected on which HUDCO proposes to build cheap houses;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any aid has been provided by World Bank in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; and the time by which HUDCO will start construction ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) HUDCO is not a construction agency. It finances schemes formulated by the various borrowing agencies in accordance with its guidelines. The Schemes to be taken up during the 7th Plan are yet to be finalised.

(b) to (e). Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Crop Protection from Insects and Pests

*190. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a rise in insects and pests with the rise in the output of foodgrains per hectare as a result