

loss in production. The farmers are very disheartened on account of it. Has the Government directed the agricultural scientists and I.C.A.R. to hold some sort of research by which the area under groundnut production may be increased and the farmers are benefited. Will the Hon. Minister take steps to import genetic material of improve the quality of seeds and also to increase the area under oilseeds production ?

[English]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, this question relates to the rapidly vanishing indigenous plant genetic wealth. For that we have taken sufficient measures.

So far as the question of the Hon. Member is concerned, regarding groundnut we are working on it and we want to develop a variety which can give more yield and it will also be disease free. Our scientists are working and for that matter if it is necessary to bring some germplasm from outside, we are prepared for that also. Recently we have brought germplasm of sunflower and we have cultivated it in various parts of the country. After it is harvested, we can decide about the import of the germplasm in large quantity.

HUDCO loan to Cooperative Societies

*554. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that many Cooperative Housing Societies have come up with the loan assistance from HUDCO in the urban centres whereas no such benefit is available in the rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to evolve any scheme for housing in the semi-urban and rural areas by providing loan assistance to individual members;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) HUDCO has so far sanctioned 71 schemes for construction of 1,30,428 houses in rural areas through cooperative housing societies, as against 69 schemes for construction of 15,101 houses in urban areas through cooperative housing societies. It is, therefore, not correct to say that HUDCO gives loan assistance to cooperative housing societies only in urban areas.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Sir, looking to the number of houses, there is definitely a vast difference in the rural and urban areas. But looking towards the number of societies that have come up, it is almost negligible. Hence, this itself proves that more work is done in the urban areas than in the rural areas.

Secondly, before I ask my question, I would like to draw your attention to the answer given by the Government "That it is, therefore, not correct to say..." I am not saying this. I am simply asking a question from the Government whether it has been brought to the notice that more work in HUDCO is done in the urban areas against the rural areas. So that clause should be deleted. I am not making any contradictory statement. I am simply asking the question. I would like to know how many applications have been received by the Government so far in the last year and how many are awaiting.

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : The Hon. Member is of the view that more work by HUDCO is done in the urban areas as against the rural areas. It is not so. Sir, the requirements of our Group Housing Societies and other Societies come to us. We do not give loan to any individual. HUDCO sanctions loans only through societies and Housing Boards. Therefore, it will be wrong to say that we are ignoring the rural areas. We are looking after our rural areas also. We receive applications from States like Tamilnadu and Rajasthan and we are giving them loans regularly.

You have just inquired as to how many applications have been received from the States. The State Governments send their applications here according to their requirements. HUDCO sanctions loans all the time. Under the Seventh Five Year Plan, Rs. 577 crores are earmarked for the landless workers. For the purpose of site development in the States, Rs. 500 is granted as subsidy and Rs. 1500 for construction work. This is full subsidy. It is also coming from the State Government. Secondly, under the Seventh Plan, Rs. 125 crores were earmarked for the Indira Housing Scheme. It is all meant for the Tribal people. It is not that housing work is not progressing and I would submit that we are paying considerable attention to rural areas also.

[English]

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Sir, due to the indifferent attitude of the engineers and the contractors in the rural areas and also due to the low wage being given to the workers, the HUDCO schemes in the rural areas are lagging behind in construction. I would like to know from the Government what steps are being taken to rectify this and when will the work be completed ?

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : HUDCO pays particular attention to Finance and Technology. The National Building Organisation of our Ministry also has Centres. We instruct them to hold demonstration of our new equipments and technology in the villages so that cheap houses could be constructed there. It is not that we are ignoring this aspect; in fact, we are constantly paying attention to it.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated just now and it has been stated in his report that HUDCO has so far sanctioned 71 schemes for construction of 1,30,428 houses in rural areas and 69 schemes for construction of 15,101 houses in urban areas. According to the figures, the progress in the rural areas seems to be quite good. I want to know as to what are the State-wise figures in this regard. If the Hon. Minister has the

required information, he must furnish it. Similarly, I want to know as to how people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been benefited and if the information given in this regard is correct, than it is all right. Another thing towards which I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister is that nowadays whosoever gets the loan for houses building purposes, he builds it in an urban area rather than in a rural area. Will you put a check on this tendency so that villages may develop and urban areas are not overburdened ?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member may be aware that the Hon. Prime Minister has announced in his Budget speech that the Housing Bank is being set up and along with it, as I have said earlier also, most of our attention is towards EWS category and the limit fixed for it earlier was Rs. 350 per month, which has now been increased to Rs. 700 per month. The loan of Rs 6000 which is granted is to be repaid within a period of 20-22 years with 5 per cent interest. Similarly, Rs. 6000 which is granted under the Indira Housing Scheme is full subsidy and in this way, Rs. 577 crores which are being spent are full subsidy. Hence, it cannot be said that work is not being done; rather a lot of work is being done. I do not have the information about the state-wise break-up with me at present, specially of the rural areas, but if you want to know about the position in the urban areas, I can provide it just now.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated that the housing schemes prepared by the Government have helped in considerable development of the rural areas and under the Indira Housing Scheme, all Harijans are being provided loans and houses. I want to know if some similar schemes has been prepared to provide houses and loans to all classes of people in the rural areas.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : So far as housing is concerned, reports from the State Governments are received regarding the housing requirements of the various sectors and on the basis of their information and suggestions, loans are given. However, loans through the HUDCO are given to the

Housing Boards only and not to any individuals.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Under the HUDCO Scheme lot of funds are being allocated for the States for the purpose of construction of the houses. I appreciate the Government for having allocated a loan facility of Rs. 577 crores for the urban areas. With regard to the rural areas, the allocation made by the Government is only Rs. 125 crores. I can say that only the urban areas are being given preference.

With the loans of HUDCO, the States are constructing more houses. Tamil Nadu is the first State in availing of the opportunity of getting loans from HUDCO for constructing houses.

As regards cooperative societies, many of them are being formed. But actually, they avail the loan facilities and the funds are not being utilised for the purpose for which the loans are being received under the HUDCO.

I would like to know whether the Government has come across such malpractices in the cooperative societies and whether any action is being initiated by the Government so far.

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : It is not that societies can take loans for house building purposes and spend it on some other sectors. We are always vigilant in this regard and our officials verify the identity of the societies and also look into their work and wherever our schemes are implemented, it is seen as to how much work is being done for the weaker sections. Fifty per cent of houses in a particular scheme are meant for the weaker sections. It is not that loans are sanctioned without any justification. Constant monitoring is done and loans are given on the basis of the reports received by us.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you should also look into the kind of houses

which are being built. You might have seen in the trans-Yamuna areas that pigeon holes have been built. You cannot even breathe there. They have indulged in corruption in regard to land allotted for this purpose. They have left no open space. What will happen here? You may have noticed that when some rural land is acquired, the rural people are restricted within the *Lal Dora* beyond which they are not allowed to extend? Hence, while allotting land, attention should be paid to the fact that there should be adequate open space for the villagers.

[English]

Availability of ferrous scrap

*555. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps for increasing the availability of ferrous scrap for the mini steel sector;

(b) whether any plan has been chalked out for setting up ship breaking yards for getting scrap; and

(c) if so, the details of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANTI) : (a) Imports of scrap have been increased to meet the requirement of the mini steel plants. In addition, efforts are being made to increase recovery of scrap available in steels plants.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I think, considering the capacity which has been built in mini steel plants on which a lot of capital has been blocked by this country—and there is dearth of capital in this country—the Ministry should ensure that the mini steel plants' full capacity is utilised. One of the ways in which it can be done is by seeing that enough scrap is available for the mini steel plants to utilise their capacity