

granting subsidies continuously for the last 18 years and it has been enhanced as well. But the State Government should prepare a plan about the housing requirements of the tea-garden labourers and send it to us. We are always ready to sanction loans accordingly. We are not rejecting the request for loans.

[English]

Policy on urban land ceiling

*557. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to revise their policy on urban land ceiling; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Certain proposals to amend the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 are under the consideration of Government.

[English]

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Sir, will the honourable Minister enlighten this House about certain proposals which, he says, are under active consideration of the Government ?

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : It has to be looked into deeply. In our Urban Ceiling Act there is nothing that provides benefit only to the big people and deprives the ordinary people. Those proposals as you have mentioned are under our consideration and we are looking into every aspect of them. The suggestion provided by the Correa Commission in this connection are also being looked into and we are paying attention to them.

[English]

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Is it a fact that the Correa Commission has already

submitted its first report ? Will the Hon'ble Minister enlighten us about the salient features of this report ?

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : There is nothing like it, Sir. I have said it in reply to an earlier question that it is an interim report. More reports have to come from them and 19 groups are working there. When all the reports are received from them, then we will look into them comprehensively and we will ask the State Government to give their comments and suggestions on them.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Urban Ceiling Act has become very obsolete and we have not been able to pass it for the last 40 years. In the villages, ceiling laws have been enforced after an Act in that regard was passed, but in urban areas, we have not been able to do anything as a result of which people are in possession of 25 to 30 acres of land in the cities. As the Urban Land Ceiling Act has not been passed, land ceiling cannot be enforced there. Therefore, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether you will direct the State Governments and the administration of Union Territories including Delhi to put restrictions on the sale of land in the urban areas till the Urban Land Ceiling Act is passed ? What is your difficulty in this regard ?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : We understand the sentiments of the Hon. Member. We are constantly keeping a watch on it. We want that the common people should get more benefits. It should not happen that they are deprived and the influential people reap all the benefits. Therefore, the Government is considering all the aspects so that the common people may get maximum benefits.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the matter was one or two years old, then we could have understood it, but it is not so. This matter has been pending for years. When land Ceiling laws were passed in regard to agricultural land, although their implementation was not very effective, still a limit was imposed. Why has the same not been done in the urban areas

as well? We want to know the difficulties so that we can help the Government. What are the difficulties in fixing a ceiling on the land of the influential and the rich people? We want to know it in order to help the Government. We want to know one, two or three reasons behind it.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : What the Hon. Member has stated about the rich and the influential people whether owning land or other properties, we are constantly vigilant about this matter. We are looking into all these aspects. Therefore, we want that the big people should not get benefit from it.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : What have you been doing for all these years?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him reply, why are you interrupting?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 8 years have passed. Have they been sleeping or are they awake? What is the difference between the two?

AN HON. MEMBER : There should be half-an-hour discussion on this issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : 40 years or 50 years may have passed, but why do you interrupt?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : The Hon. Members and the House...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : Allow a half-an-hour discussion on it.

AN HON. MEMBER : We cannot achieve much by a half-an-hours discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the question be completed.

[English]

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, whether it

is a fact that after passing of the Urban Land Ceiling Act by this Parliament, in cities like Delhi, the land and house owners, owning more than five hundred square yards of land—I am not talking of the factory owners, but the owners of the residential areas—who are multi-millionaires have got large plots of land for their bungalows. The surplus land was supposed to be taken over by the Government, but under the guise of exemption provision of this Act, these people whose land was to be taken away, have been immensely benefited. The surplus land was so far kept as vacant land in Delhi. As you know, construction was not allowed beyond a certain portion of the plot which was held by an owner; it was to be fifty per cent or one-third. But after the passing of this Act, these house owners have been allowed indiscriminately to put up multi-storied buildings in the name of housing for weaker section. The entire area has been covered and millions of rupees have been earned by each of them. But for this Act they could not have constructed. They have now constructed on the entire area and they are earning millions of rupees from each bungalow by way of sale and rent from well-to-do people. These houses are not allotted to weaker section. As I said, indiscriminate construction has taken place and thereby they have suffocated the environment of Delhi. What has the Government done to stop this kind of racketeering which has been indulged in with the collaboration and connivance of the Municipal Corporation and the DDA who are delaying implementation of the ceiling law.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : The matter is already under consideration.

[Translation]

It is being considered in depth.

(Interruptions)

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : What is that depth?

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Is it the depth of the sea or that of something else?

(Interruptions)