

rooms at present. We have got further planning also and we are making efforts to provide maximum residential accommodation for them.

[*English*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many employees who have come to Delhi for Government service face a lot of difficulty so far as accommodation is concerned. But the plight of the residents of Jammu and Kashmir who have come to Delhi is far greater compared to others because we do not have that much accommodation. But there is a way out. There is Kashmir House which is occupied by a Central Govt. Ministry. We are in touch with the Minister of Urban Development that Kashmir House at Tilak Marg. If that could be released to us, we could solve our difficulties. We have already taken up this matter with him. So, will the hon. Minister react to my suggestions that Kashmir House be provided to us to save the Kashmiri people? He must say something.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: This is a separate question.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: He would be solving our problem!

Construction of Houses by NRI

*335. DR. G.S. RAJHANS:†
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-Resident Indians have been permitted by Government for the construction of houses in the country ;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the acute problem of housing in the country is likely to be solved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) . Government have not permitted non-resident Indians (NRIs) to invest in housing construction on a commercial basis. The question of the impact of such investment on the problem of housing in the country does not, therefore, arise.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: There is no denying the fact that there is a great dearth of houses in this country. It is equally true private builder - I do not want to take their names- are fleecing the people. Under these circumstances, what is the difficulty in allowing NRIs to construct houses in this country on a commercial basis?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is concerned with the Ministry of Finance, but the information which has been received from the Minister of Finance states that a committee of Secretaries has also been constituted and this matter also come up in the meeting of Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance, but at present it has not served any purpose. Non-resident Indians want their involvement for accommodation for higher income group in metropolitan cities and which will not be beneficial for us. Our base is for MIG, LIG, and E.W.S. This question is basically related to the Ministry of Finance and many a times meetings have been held there in this regard and hon. Members have also raised this question in the meetings of the Consultative Committee also.

[*English*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Is the Government

aware of the fact that a new technology has been developed in the West, whereunder it is not necessary to get the bricks fired by coal? Sun-dried or air-dried bricks, i.e. dried with the help of certain chemicals can be manufactured, and these bricks are as strong as coal-burnt bricks. Especially, the cost will come to one-fourth of the coal-burnt bricks. Will the Government consider importing this technology into this country, and allow NRIs to import this technology here, and get cheap houses constructed for the weaker sections of the people?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: Our N.B.O is basically undertaking demonstration work, because we have to use new technology with our own material so that low cost houses are available to the people and suitable to the climatic conditions of the area. Keeping in view all these things we are doing this and there is no proposal at present to import technology from abroad. We are developing technology here so that low cost houses could be provided to the people according to the climatic conditions of the area.

[*English*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: This technology has been tried in the Third World countries.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has said in his reply "Government have not permitted non-resident Indians to invest in housing construction on a commercial basis". Just few days back an advertisement was published that if non-resident Indians what to make investment for the houses made for ASIAD, priority would be given to them. So his reply is not adequate. Scheme is already there. My submission, therefore, is that in view of

the prevailing situation in the country, there is acute problem of housing in our country. As we needed money for industry, we permitted non-resident Indians to invest in it, similarly, if they are willing, they should be permitted to invest in housing sector also, as you have stated that as against your demand for money for housing purposes, very meagre amount has been given. Recently in the month of December, the Secretary, Indian investment Board in his speech made at Bangalore said that N.R.Is. were ready to construct 5000 dwelling units what is the reason for not accepting such proposal, especially when there is dearth of funds and there is utmost need of houses in the country.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that it was decided to sell 588 dwelling units of ASIAD in dollar currency, but only 97 applications were received and ultimately only 8 applicant were left in the field. We further withheld them and at present we have 24 applications with us. So non-resident Indians come forward for individual construction only, not for mass construction. So it has not yet been considered proper. Hon'ble Minister will tell us as to what plan is being formulated in respect of N.R.Is. Discussion with Ministry of Finance also is being held in this regard.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV: Mr Speaker. Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how long it would take for the Government to provide houses to the people belonging to Harijan and Tribals Communities living in the hilly areas of Madhya Pradesh as majority of them are homeless.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a different question. Moreover, dwelling units are constructed for Harijans and tribals under the Indira Housing Scheme. We have an outlay of Rs.577 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Last

time, hon'ble Members had asked about it, but, we did not receive any plan from several states. Under the scheme, the State Government was to provide land measuring 100 sq. yards and funds were to be provided by the Centre. There is nothing like that. The scheme under the Indira Housing Scheme is implemented under Rural Development Programme.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If the non-resident Indians are allowed to invest in big houses, why are they not allowed to invest in houses.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: Dandavate Saheb has told about big houses. Sometime back, it was considered but later on it was decided that no fruitful purpose will be served by it.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: By big houses I meant big industrial houses. He has misunderstood it, he is too innocent to understand the question. If the non-resident Indians are allowed to invest in big industrial houses, why are they not allowed to invest in houses?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Professor Saheb, why do you ask question in a round-about manner?

Prices of Vegetables in Delhi

*336. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of the vegetables have skyrocketed in Delhi markets;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) The steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to bring down the rising prices of the vegetables?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c). A statement is given below:

STATEMENT

(a) The prices of important vegetables in Delhi have generally shown an increase since the second week of July 1987. During the first fortnight of November, 1987, the prices of most of the vegetables have shown a downward trend.

(b) The main reasons for high prices have been drought conditions and seasonality factors.

(c) To contain the prices of vegetables particularly potatoes and onions in Delhi, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED) has released adequate stocks of potato and onion to retail agencies like the Super Bazar, Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation, Kendriya Bhandar and their own out-lets for retail distribution. This has had a salutary effect on retail prices in Delhi.

The Mother Dairy is also selling vegetables from their retail outlets at reasonable prices.

A Special Scheme for increasing production of vegetables around urban agglom-