

**Housing problem of urban poor**

\*107. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate comprehensive action plan for solving housing problem of the urban poor and those living in the slums; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to achieve the objectives, the Government has recently decided to launch a new scheme known as Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana to provide shelter or upgrade the existing shelter for people below poverty line in urban slums and also to improve the basic amenities like sanitation and water supply. Details of the scheme, including the guidelines are being finalized for inclusion in the Tenth Plan.

**Setting up of district level Lok Adalats**

\* 108. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LA W, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up district level Lok Adalats headed by retired Judges throughout the country to settle expeditiously cases particularly consumer related issues pertaining to municipalities and service-oriented services;

(b) if so, by when these Adalats are likely to be functional; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (c) Permanent and Continuous Lok Adalats have been set up in almost all the Districts in the country. Such Permanent and Continuous Lok Adalats are empowered to deal with all cases including consumer related issues pertaining to municipalities and service oriented cases for which cognizance can be taken by Lok Adalats under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Sub-section (2) of Section 19 of the said Act provides for utilization of services of retired Judicial Officers to preside over such Lok Adalats and their services are being utilized wherever feasible and considered necessary.

(b) Does not arise.