

Land for Housing Projects

*471. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many urban housing projects are hampered due to non-availability of Government land and high cost of acquiring it from private parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would include the cost of acquiring land in deciding the share of central funds to be allocated under various housing schemes?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) 'Land' and 'Colonisation' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to take measures for increased supply of land for adequate shelter. The non-availability of adequate land for housing project has drawn the attention of Government. In pursuance of the resolution adopted by the National Conference of State Ministers of Housing, Urban Development and Municipal Administration on "Affordable Housing for All" held on 20.01.2009, a communication has been sent to all States on 24.03.2009 for initiation of steps in line with the resolution adopted in the Conference that availability of land for housing be augmented to meet the shortages and to keep pace with the increasing population in urban areas. A need for providing land for housing free of cost or at nominal cost for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS); and at controlled prices for the Low Income Group (LIG) and Middle Income Group (MIG) acknowledged in the Conference has also been highlighted in the communication. Further the Government has launched a scheme of Affordable Housing in Partnership to encourage increased supply of developed land at reduced cost.

(c) Under Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) land cost is financed by the Centre for acquisition of private land for scheme/projects in the North Eastern States and hilly States viz. Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir.

SAI hostel in Orissa

†*472. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Sports Authority of India (SAI) hostel situated at Dhenkanal in Orissa is on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the Government's plan to make this hostel more spacious and effective?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) to (c) Sports Authority of India (SAI) is operating a Training Centre at Dhenkanal with hostel facility for 45 trainees, which has been in operation since 1992. Government of Orissa and SAI entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2003, which, *inter-alia*, provides that the State Government shall place at the disposal of SAI the hostel and playing facilities for operation of the Centre. The MOU further stipulated that the facilities of the Centre may also be used by the State Government for organizing sports events subject to the same not interfering the regular training programme of SAI and further subject to stipulation that under no circumstances the facilities shall be used for non-sporting purposes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.