

- (a) the progress of Urban Housing Policy;
- (b) whether the housing shortage in urban areas has gone over the last decade;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government will be considering to conceive a separate department to monitor the housing altogether in urban areas across the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Union Government has formulated the first urban area focused 'National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, 2007 (NUHHP:2007)' to set in motion a process in providing 'Affordable Housing for All' particularly the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG). This policy intends to promote sustainable development of habitat in the country with a view to ensuring equitable supply of land, shelter and services at affordable prices to all sections of society. The policy seeks promoting various types of public-private partnerships—of the government sector with the private sector, the cooperative sector, the financial services sector, the state parastatals, urban local bodies, etc.—for realizing the goal of affordable housing for all. The policy has been widely circulated to States/Union Territories. However, 'Land' and 'Colonisation' being State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to follow up on the initiatives propounded in the Policy.

(b) and (c) The Working Group on Housing for the Tenth Plan had estimated that around 90 per cent of housing shortage pertained to the weaker sections. The Working Group had also estimated the urban housing shortage at the beginning of Tenth Plan at 8.89 million units.

A Technical Group constituted by the Ministry in 2006 to assess the urban housing shortage has estimated that accounting for factors of congestion and obsolescence at the end of the 10th Five Year Plan (2007-08), the total housing shortage in the country was 24.71 million.

(d) 'Land' and 'colonisation' being state subjects, the onus of providing adequate and affordable housing is on states. However, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation of the Union Government is propagating and promoting the NUHHP:2007, as also implementing schemes for providing affordable housing to urban poor.

Rajiv Awas Yojana for slum dwellers

798. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has constituted any framework for execution of the newly formulated scheme Rajiv Awas Yojana for slum dwellers and urban poor;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) targets set up under the scheme; and
- (d) the details thereof and the schemes that have dovetailed with the Rajiv Awas Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Government has constituted an expert committee for formulation of proposed Rajiv Awas Yojana(RAY), aimed at making India Slum-free. The Committee will make suggestions regarding the strategies, financial pattern and other features of RAY.

(c) and (d) As the expert committee has been set up recently, it is too early to decide on the targets under RAY. The schemes of Affordable Housing in Partnership (AFIP) and Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor (ISHUP) are proposed to be dovetailed with the Rajiv Awas Yojana.

Cancellation of college licences

799. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that British Government has cancelled licenses of hundred colleges;
- (b) if so, the number of Indian students who have been affected due to the cancellation of the licenses; and
- (c) the actions Government is taking to safeguard the interests of Indian students?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) It has been reported that the British Government has suspended/cancelled licenses of some colleges. However, details of such colleges are not available.

- (b) This information has not been furnished by the Government of UK.
- (c) The matter has been taken up by the High Commission of India, London with the UK authorities from time to time.

Legal support to migrants

800. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps that have been taken to provide legal support for migrants who live and work overseas;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether legal support is provided to Indian students studying overseas and details thereof; and