

Rs. 1,00,000/- and also that the plinth area of house be increased to at least 30 sq. m from the present level of 22.2 sq. m; and

(c) if so, the time by which the request of Government of Gujarat will be considered and funds will be released for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) During the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Government of India had sanctioned a scheme called Namak Mazdoor Awas Yojana (NMAY) for construction of dwelling units for salt workers. The Scheme was implemented in various States including Gujarat. Construction of 5,000 dwelling units was sanctioned under the scheme.

Presently, there is no decision on the continuation of NMAY scheme or enhancement of the unit cost.

#### **Resuming WTO dialogue**

1368. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIASBAL APTE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is trying to resume the held up dialogue of World Trade Organization;

(b) if so, how far it is justified for the farmers of the country; and

(c) justification for eagerness to resume the World Trade Organisation dialogue when cotton growing farmers are committing suicide in the country due to import of the cotton on cheap rates owing to more subsidy for agriculture in developed countries because of unfriendly policy of World Trade Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) India is committed to a rule-based, multilateral trade regime which is fair and equitable and an early conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO); however, the core concerns of the Round, namely, the development concerns of developing countries, have to be addressed.

(b) The principal aim of India's negotiating strategy in agriculture negotiations has been to protect the interests of farmers particularly with regard to their food and livelihood security. Substantial and effective reductions in domestic support and customs tariffs by developed countries, while enabling developing countries to protect and promote the interests of their low income and resource poor farmers, is a key priority for India and other developing countries in the agriculture negotiations.

(c) India is a net exporter of cotton. Textile industry imports cotton mainly of extra long staple variety such as Savin and Pima which is not grown domestically.