

**Reservation of DDA Houses for
handicapped persons**

*48. SHRI R. NARSIMHA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a certain quota of houses built for sale by the Delhi Development Authority are reserved for handicapped persons;

(b) whether mentally retarded persons are also included in the category of 'handicapped persons' for the purpose; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): *ia*) Yes, Sir. The Delhi Development Authority has informed that 1 per cent of the dwelling units constructed under its general registration scheme are reserved for physically handicapped persons.

(b) The Delhi Development Authority has reported that mentally retarded persons are also included in the category of 'handicapped persons' for the purpose, provided mental retardation has resulted in physical handicap.

(c) Does not arise.

**Rise in the prices of sugar and
groundnut oil**

*49. SHRI SHIV CHANDRA JHA: SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of sugar and groundnut oil had a record rise during the last six months;

(b) if so, to what extent the prices registered a rise and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government taking to bring down the prices of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Sugar: It is correct that the prices of sugar rose considerably during the year 1979. The prices showed an upward trend in March, 1979. The increase was marked from June, 1979 to December, 1979. During this period its wholesale prices increased from the range of Rs. 251 to Rs. 280 per quintal to the range of Rs. 281 to Rs. 375 per quintal (middle of December, 1979). The rise in prices was due largely to the higher level of consumption, the likely shortfall in production during the 1979-80 season and the speculative trends.

A number of steps were taken from time to time. These included the re-imposition of monthly release system, fixation of ex-factory and retail prices. These measures did not, however, prove effective. The policy of dual pricing in force before August, 1978 was, therefore, re-introduced on the 17th December, 1979.

65 per cent of sugar is now available as levy procurement for the public distribution system, at the retail rate of Rs. 2.85 per kg. Balance 35 per cent of the stocks are meant for free sale. During the second half of December, 1979 the wholesale prices of free-sale sugar were within the range of Rs. 410 to Rs. 502 per quintal. These prices have come down within the range of Rs. 410 to Rs. 445 per quintal.

The position is being kept under close and continuous watch with a view to ensuring availability of sugar and to prevent any undue rise in prices of free sale stocks.