

whether in the co-operative sector or joint stock sector, if warranted by the circumstances specified in the Act.

Orphans and abandoned children in the country

694. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state what is the number of orphans and abandoned children in the country and the steps taken so far for their welfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRI MATI RENUKA DEVI BARKATAKI): Information with regard to the number of orphans and abandoned children in the country is not available, as no comprehensive survey on the extent of destitution has been conducted so far.

To tackle the problem of destitution among children, this Department is implementing a Scheme entitled "Scheme for the services for children in need of care and protection", under which grant-in-aid is given to voluntary organisations through the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, for the maintenance of destitute/orphan children between the age group of 5—18 years. The scheme provides for ameliorative services such as food, shelter, clothing, medical attention besides developmental services of education, pre-vocational and vocational training, vocational guidance recreation, etc. A part from the services of an institutional nature referred to above, a Scheme for developing Foster Care Services is also under implementation. All the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested by the Minister of Education and Social Welfare to take urgent steps to contain the problem of destitution within a period of five years.

695. [Transferred to the 14th May, 1979]

Jhuggi dwellers in Delhi

696. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of jhuggi dwellers in Delhi;

(b) how many jhuggi dwellers have so far been allotted land for housing purposes; and

(c) how many of these allottees have constructed houses on the allotted land?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) No comprehensive survey of Jhuggi dwellers in Delhi has been carried out, and, therefore, it is not possible to give their total number.

(b) About 1.80 lakhs families,

(c) No survey has been made in this behalf.

Annual Growth of Jhuggi Dwellers in Delhi

697. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual growth of jhuggi dwellers in Delhi; and

(b) what efforts are being made by Government to stop its growth?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) No comprehensive surveys of the Jhuggi dwellers have been made, and therefore, it is not possible to state their annual growth.

(b) It is the declared policy of the Government to stop squatting on public land, which leads to growth of