

States are free to utilise the amount for different plan schemes according to their requirements and order of priority. It is, therefore, not possible to isolate the element of block loan and block grant under the Slum Clearance/Improvement Scheme.

Post-Graduate Correspondence Courses in English in the Delhi University

*191. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 322 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 1977 and state the academic year from which the Delhi University propose to start correspondence courses in the English Literature at the post-graduate level?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): The proposal of the School of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education for starting M.A. course in English with effect from 1978-79 is still under consideration of the Delhi University authorities.

UNESCO'S help for Construction of Houses in the Cyclone Hit Areas in Andhra Pradesh

*192. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA;
SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAHANTI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Voluntary Service Organisation of the UNESCO is contemplating to help in the construction of houses in the cyclone hit areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether any representative of the UNESCO has approached

the Government of India in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Providing of Houses to homeless Families

*193. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

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

(a) what is the number of homeless families at present in each State; and

(b) what is the progress made in providing houses to such families during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The housing shortage of the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan i.e. 1st April, 1974 was estimated at 15.6 million housing units—11.6 million units in rural areas and 3.8 million units in urban areas. Data on the number of homeless families in each State are not available.

The rate of construction of new houses in the country per year is about 3 per 1000 population. This comes to about 2 million per year.

Under the various social housing schemes formulated by the Ministry, 10,25,831 houses had been sanctioned for construction out of which 7,70,422 houses were completed up to the end of December, 1977. Under the scheme for provision of house-sites to landless workers in rural areas, out of about 114 lakh eligible families, about 73 lakh families were allotted house-sites up to 30-11-1977.