

TAX EVASION AND TAX AVOIDANCE

*200. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:

SHRI G. P. SOMASUNDARAM:

SHRI KANCHI KALYANASUNDARAM:

SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make forfeiture of property a penalty for tax evasion in order to check the growing tendency of tax evasion and tax avoidance; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) In order to check tax evasion the Income-tax Act, 1961 has already been amended and provides for a deterrent penalty. The penalty which may be imposed for concealment of income ranges between a minimum of 100 per cent and a maximum of 200 per cent of the income concealed. Formerly the penalty leviable ranged between 20 per cent and 150 per cent of the tax sought to be evaded. So far as tax avoidance is concerned, the question of imposing penalty cannot arise as it does not contravene the provisions of law. However, the Government has recently appointed a Committee to suggest measures to reduce tax avoidance also.

STATE HOUSING MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

*201. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH:

SHRI Y. ADINARAYANAREDDY:

SHRI M. K. MOHTA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government had convened a

meeting of the State Housing Ministers to work out details of self-generating housing schemes;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) how many State Ministers attended the Conference; and

(d) what steps are being taken to implement the decision?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) to (d) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) A Conference of State Ministers of Housing and Urban Development was convened at New Delhi in January, 1970 to discuss, amongst other matters, the implementation of the concept of a Revolving Fund for housing and urban development.

(b) While urging the Central Government to establish the nucleus of a Revolving Fund in the beginning of the financial year 1970-71, the Conference agreed that the project can succeed if quick turn over was assured by cheap and quick construction, by developing areas simultaneously for residential and commercial purposes so that profits made by commercialisation can be used for the benefit of the weaker sections.

(c) 21 State Ministers, including the Chief Executive Councillor of the Delhi attended the Conference.

(d) It is proposed to set up a Revolving Fund for housing and urban development to be operated through a new Corporation to be established for the purpose. A provision of Rs. 2 crores has been included in the Budget Estimate of the Department of Works, Housing & Urban Development, for the year 1970-71 towards the initial paid-up capital of this Corporation. It is anticipated that a sum of upto Rs. 200 crores can be made available to the Corporation for being utilised on approved