

**ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS FOR HOUSING SCHEMES**

120. **SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :**  
**SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM:**  
**SHRI G. P. SOMASUNDARAM:**  
**SHRI KANCHI KALYANASUND-**  
**ARAM:**

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 many of the States have not utilised their housing funds in the year 1969;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the unutilised funds will be reallotted to the States which require more funds for the housing schemes?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY):** (a) to (c). During the Fourth Five Year plan beginning from 1969-70, Central assistance to States for all State sector schemes (including housing) will be given in the form of block loans and block grants without being tied to any particular head of development. The State Governments can utilise the assistance under various State sector schemes according to their requirements. The details of the amounts utilised by the State Governments under housing schemes, out of the block Central assistance allocated to them during 1969-70, have not yet been furnished by them. These may be available sometime after the end of the current financial year.

**PRICES OF MEDICINES AND DRUGS**

121. **SHRI KALYAN ROY:** Will the Minister of **HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the talks with the representatives of pharmaceutical industries for the reduction of drugs and medicine prices have been concluded; and

(b) if so, what are the results?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY):** (a) and (b) The views of the representatives of the drug industry and the drug trade in different matters were informally ascertained and are under the consideration of Government.

**ALL INDIA SURGEONS CONFERENCE**

122. **SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:**  
**SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:**  
**SHRI M.K. MOHTA:**

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

(a) whether Government have received suggestions made at the recent All India Surgeons Conference urging the raising of retirement age of doctors in view of the shortage of experienced doctors, particularly in rural areas; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B.S. MURTHY):** (a) No suggestions have so far been received from the All India Surgeons Conference.

(b) Does not arise.

**ZINC SMELTER IN TAMIL NADU**

123. **SHR G.P. SOMASUNDARAM:**  
**SHRI KANCHI KALYANASUN-**  
**DARAM:**  
**SHRI T.V. ANANDAN:**

Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM and CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have commissioned any Polish Agency to prepare a detailed project report for setting up a zinc smelter in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Government have received the report; and

(c) by when the project will be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND  
CHEMICALS AND MINES AND ME-  
TALS (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

RELAXATION OF CURBS ON TRAVEL ABROAD

124. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:  
SHRI K.C. PANDA :  
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Govern-  
ment of India has been invited to a state-  
ment made by the Chairman of Air-India,  
Shri J.R.D. Tata to the effect that the Union  
Government were considering further re-  
laxation of curbs on travel abroad by Indians  
as published in the "Statesman" dated the  
31st December, 1969 and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government  
of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI  
P.C. SETHI : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Governments' decisions have been  
set out in a Press Note issued on 18th  
February, 1970, and a copy thereof is  
attached.

#### PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

#### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

#### PRESS NOTE

#### *Relaxations in regulations for travel abroad*

Government have had under considera-  
tion for some time the question of making  
some relaxations in the present regulations  
regarding release of foreign exchange for  
education overseas and for travel abroad.  
It has been decided to make certain re-  
laxations as summarised in this press note.

In the matter of foreign exchange release  
for those going for further education over-  
seas, the following relaxations have been  
decided upon:

(a) At present, a student is required  
to have obtained not less than 60% marks  
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in a degree examination in India to be  
eligible for release of foreign exchange.  
Hereafter, the qualifying marks would be  
lowered to 55%.

(b) At present, no foreign exchange is  
released in favour of any person unless  
he has passed a degree examination in  
India (with a minimum of 60% marks  
now lowered to 55%). It has now been  
decided that for all those fields of study  
where a degree course does not exist in  
India nor is an adequate diploma course  
available, foreign exchange will be releas-  
ed without insisting that the student con-  
cerned should be a graduate.

(c) At present, a student who goes abroad  
for further studies and who wins a foreign  
scholarship is required to curtail, to the  
extent of the value of the scholarship,  
the quantum of remittances from India.  
It has been decided that, in future, no  
such curtailment in remittances from  
India need be made if the value of the  
scholarship earned abroad is for an amount  
not exceeding £ 300 per annum. Where  
the amount exceeds £ 300, the adjust-  
ment need be made only for the portion  
in excess of £ 300.

In view of the high cost of education  
overseas and the need to provide some as-  
sistance to meritorious students, Govern-  
ment have decided to introduce a Scholar-  
ship Scheme under which 50 scholarships  
will be awarded every year. Further de-  
tails about the scheme in regard to the amo-  
unt of the scholarship, the courses for  
which they would be admissible, the form  
of application, the criteria for their award  
etc. are being separately worked out by the  
Ministry of Education and these details  
will be notified separately,

In respect of travel abroad Government,  
have decided that all those who have not  
been abroad for a period of 3 years will  
be exempt from the operation of 'P' form  
control in respect of one visit abroad. For  
such a visit, no sponsorship declarations  
will be required nor will it be necessary for  
the person concerned to indicate who would  
be the host abroad. The period of 3 years  
will be reckoned backwards from the date  
of commencement of the proposed visit  
abroad. Thus, anyone who has not been  
abroad since 1st March 1967 would be in