

safety and comfort)* about 837 lakh families are estimated to be in need of houses.

(b) It is proposed to continue all the existing social housing schemes, which are directed towards the amelioration of housing conditions of persons in the low and middle income brackets. The draft Fourth Five Year Plan, however, provides for a sum of only Rs. 96' 70 crores for all these schemes and urban development programmes taken together, which is very meagre. One answer to the problem lies in activating the private sector and mobilising private resources for housing in a progressive manner. Besides, the Conference of Ministers of Housing, Urban Development and Town Planning, held at Bangalore, in June 1969, has recommended the constitution of a Central Housing Authority, which should raise resources from within and outside the country and operate the same in the nature of a revolving fund; for this purpose, a fund with a corpus of Rs. 100 crores should be built up out of Governmental allocations and other contributions. If and when these proposals materialise, it may be possible to make efforts to solve the housing problem in a realistic manner.]

SELLING OF INDIAN CRUDE TO SPAIN

924. SHRI S. D. MISRA :

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD :

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

(a) what are the prospects of selling Indian share of Iranian crude to Spain and for what duration ; and

(b) what are the terms of sale and whether it shall be profitable for India to sell Iranian crude outside as compared to refinery crude in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) A quantity of about 500,000 barrels of Rostam crude out of the Hydrocarbons India Private Limited's share of production in the Iran Offshore joint venture was sold to a Spanish refinery in October 1969. Further supplies to this refinery will depend upon the results of processing the crude supplied.

(b) It will not be in the business interest of Hydrocarbons India Private Limited to indicate the terms of sale of crude to the Spanish refinery. The comparative profitability will depend upon the terms secured in the foreign market.

CEILING ON URBAN PROPERTY

925. SHRI S. D. MISRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether any study has been conducted on the subject of ceiling on urban properties and if so, what are the findings of the study in so far as the financial assets (bullion and ornaments) and physical assets comprising vacant plots of land, residential buildings and other fixed assets including inventories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : Studies have been made and various specific suggestions on the imposition of limits on urban incomes and property and on connected issues are under close and active examination of Government.

ASSESSMENT OF THE WEALTH OF THE HOUSE OF GAWALIOR

926. SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH BRAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Members of Parliament have in a recent representation to Government urged the need of a fresh assessment of the wealth of the House of Gwalior; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

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

(b) After due enquiry, the Income-tax Department have reopened the Estate Duty assessment relating to the case of the late Maharaja Jiwaji Rao Scindia of Gwalior.

LIC WHOLE LIFE POLICIES

927. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the advisability of treating whole life policies as fully paid-up on the policyholder completing the age of 80 or on payment of 35 annual instalments of premium whichever happens to be earlier ?