

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. 200 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?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : No, Sir. The present practice of the LIC is to waive future premiums under whole Life policies which fall due on and after the policy anniversary immediately following completion of 80 years of age by the life assured or on and after the 35th policy anniversary, whichever is later. No proposal to change this practice is under consideration.

928. [Transferred to the 18th December, 1969]

L.I.C. BOARD

929. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 165 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd July 1969 and state whether no technical person conversant with all branches of life insurance has so far been taken as a member of the L.I.C. Board?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : None of the Members of the Life Insurance Corporation is technically conversant with all branches of life insurance.

L.I.C. DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

930. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1122 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th August 1969 and state :

(a) whether the work-norms for development officers have been unilaterally imposed on the Development Officers of the L.I.C.;

(b) whether the service conditions of the development officers were settled by a Government Order of 1957;

(c) whether the work-norms as imposed on the Development Officers are laid down in their service conditions; and

(d) if not, whether such work-norms will be in breach of those service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) The L.I.C. as the employer has fixed the work-norms of the Development Officers. Earlier,

there were discussions between the L.I.C. and the representatives of the National Federation of Insurance Field Workers of India on the question of work-norms though no agreement was reached.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government Order only broadly defined the duties of the Field Officers as they were then designated. It did not lay down work-norms.

(d) Since work-norms fixed by the L.I.C. are not inconsistent with the Government Order, there is no breach of the service conditions of the Development Officers.

L.I.C. PATNA DIVISION

931. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Divisional Manager of the L.I.C. of the Patna Division is using the conveyance of his subordinate staff for his personal use; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is available.

GENERAL INSURANCE

932. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the Statesman dated the 6th November 1969 (Delhi edition) to the effect that the Government of India are having second thoughts over the takeover of the business of General Insurance and that Government feel that the takeover of the business of General Insurance will not help Government much in getting additional resources; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.