

Since wide ranging consultations with all the stakeholders is essential before legislation on this vital sector is prepared, no time-frame can be assigned for finalization of the Bill at this juncture.

Affordable housing to the slum dwellers

2424. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of Indians living in slums has increased in the last one decade;
- (b) if so, the reasons for sharp increase in slum dwellers;
- (c) whether there is any plans to revise the definition of slums;
- (d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take towards slum development and provision of affordable housing to the slum-dwellers; and
- (e) the steps taken to ease the pressure of urbanisation on major cities?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) As per the Census 2011, slum figures are not available. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate the growth in the slum population.

(b) The major reasons for creation of slums are as follows:-

- (i) Increased urbanization leading to pressure on the available land and infrastructure, especially for the poor.
- (ii) Natural increase in the population of urban poor and migration from rural areas and small towns to larger cities.
- (iii) Sky-rocketing land prices due to increasing demand for land and constraints on supply of land.
- (iv) Absence of programmes of affordable housing for the urban poor in most States.
- (v) Lack of availability of credit for low income housing.
- (vi) Increasing cost of construction.

(c) The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation had set up a Committee to look into various aspects of Slum Statistics/Census and issues regarding conduct of slum census 2011. The Committee submitted its report on 30th August, 2010. The Committee has defined Slums as:

"A Slum is a compact settlement of at least 20 households with a collection of poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together usually with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions".

This definition is being followed for the schemes of the Ministry, except in the North Eastern and special category states, where such settlements of 10-15 houses would be considered. There is no plan to revise this definition by this Ministry.

(d) and (e) The Government of India launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005 to assist cities and towns in taking up housing and infrastructural facilities for the urban poor including slum dwellers in 65 cities in the country under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) Programme for the urban poor in the country. For other cities/towns, the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) was launched with the objective to strive for holistic slum development, with a healthy and enabling environment by providing shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers. The Mission period is from 2005-2012.

This Ministry is also implementing the Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor (ISHUP), which is meant to provide 5% interest subsidy upto Rs.1.0 lakh for construction and purchase of house for the EWS and LIG beneficiaries of the urban poor including Slum dwellers.

In pursuance of the Government's vision of creating a Slum-free India, a new scheme 'Rajiv Awas Yojana' (RAY) has been launched on 02.06.2011.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States that are willing to assign property rights to slum dwellers.

RAY seeks to create enabling conditions that will encourage States to tackle the problem of slums in a definitive way, by bringing existing slums within the formal system and enabling them to avail of the same amenities as the rest of the town; redressing the failures of the formal system that lie behind the creation of slums; and tackling the shortages of urban land and housing that keep shelter and housing out of reach of the poor and force them to resort to extralegal solutions in a bid to retain their sources of livelihood.

The selection of the cities will be done in consultation with the Centre. The States would be required to include all the mission cities of JNNURM, preferably cities with more than 3 lakh population as per 2001 Census; and other smaller cities, with due consideration to the pace of growth of the city, of slums, predominance of minority population, and areas where property rights are assigned.

The Affordable Housing in Partnership Scheme, which encourages public private partnerships for the creation of affordable housing stock, has been dovetailed into RAY. Under this scheme central support is provided at the rate of Rs. 50,000 per unit of affordable dwelling unit or 25% of the cost of civic infrastructure (external and internal), whichever is lower.