

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". For the North Eastern and Special Category States, settlements of 10-15 houses, having the same characteristics would be considered as slums.

(d) and (e) RAY is primarily addressed to meet the shelter needs of slum dwellers and urban Low Income Groups. RAY envisages a continuum of housing options depending on the varying needs and requirements of all deserving sections which includes night shelters, dormitories etc.

**Evacuation of Dalit homes in slums of Vishakhapatnam, A.P.**

263. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the media coverage of evacuation of dalit homes in slums of Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that dalits are not forcefully evacuated from their homes?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Housing/slum being a State subject, it is upto the State Government/Municipal Authority concerned to deal with the issues of slums including the strategy for development/redevelopment/relocation. However, under the flagship scheme of Rajiv Awas Yojana, the Government has advised States/Union Territories to adopt "in situ" development of slums as the preferred strategy. Rajiv Awas Yojana is predicated on the condition that States/UTs assign legal title to slum-dwellers over their dwelling space.

**Making India slum free under ITUN**

264. Dr. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating any scheme for making India slum free under an International Treaty of the United Nations (ITUN);

(b) if so, whether any time-frame has been fixed for the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the effective steps taken by Government to make our country slum free?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) However, 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.