

Shortage of houses for lower income group

†*168. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is maximum shortage of those houses which are within the reach of families of lower income group in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under Government's housing policy, maximum houses which are being constructed at present in the country are beyond the reach of the most needy groups; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and whether Government would make changes in this housing policy?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The Technical Group on estimation of urban housing shortage of the country for the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) constituted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, has estimated the housing shortage as 18.78 million at the beginning of Twelfth Five Year Plan period i.e., 2012, out of which 10.55 million is in Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and 7.41 million is in Low Income Group category.

The National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy (NUHHP) launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation in 2007, seeks to promote sustainable development of habitat in the country with a view to ensuring equitable supply of land, shelter and services at affordable prices to all sections of society.

'Land' and 'Colonisation' are State subjects, therefore it is primary responsibility of State Governments to ensure affordable housing to all citizens.

Housing construction by promoters/developers is a market driven factor wherein the cost of housing is determined by demand and supply factors. However, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has been implementing various schemes for EWS and LIG categories like Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with two components *viz.*, Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP);

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Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY); Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor (ISHUP); and Affordable Housing in Partnership etc. to provide affordable houses to the needy groups.

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is not considering any changes to the existing housing and habitat policy.

Fresh surveys for identification of bonded labour problems

*169. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently directed the Central Government and various State Governments to conduct fresh surveys to identify bonded labour problems in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a large number of children continue to work as domestic helps even after the enactment of the Right to Education Act; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps the Central Government proposes to take to identify such children and ensure that they get proper education?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment dated 15.10.2012 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 3922 has *inter-alia*, directed that fresh surveys be conducted periodically once in three years in all the States/UTs in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the revised report, the findings of the survey should be made a part of a computerized data base available on the websites of all concerned. The Court further directed that the responsibility of conducting the surveys is on the District Level Vigilance Committees and Sub Divisional Vigilance Committees of the States/UTs and such committees should submit their reports to the NHRC. This should be done in every three years and Committees also should be reconstituted in every three years.

The Central Government has asked the States/UTs to issue necessary instructions to the concerned authorities for implementing the directions of the Hon'ble Court contained in the judgment dated 15.10.2012.

(b) Right to Education Act, 2009 provides free and compulsory education to all children in the age group from 6-14 years. The Child Labour (Prohibition and