

security and welfare of Indian fishermen. As on 28th January, 2014, Government, through its consistent efforts, secured the release of all 317 Indian fishermen in the custody of Sri Lanka. Since then, according to available information, 38 Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu were apprehended on 29th January, 2014 and are presently in the custody of Sri Lanka. Government, through diplomatic channels, is continuously engaged with the Government of Sri Lanka for securing expeditious release of Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody.

Construction of houses for Economically Weaker Sections

1677. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is contemplating on giving incentives to private sector for construction of houses for the Economically Weaker Sections; if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of housing projects expected to be constructed under this public private partnership proposal along with the quantum of funds allocated therefor; and
- (c) by when this would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (DR. GIRIJA VYAS): (a) In order to increase affordable housing stock, as part of the preventive strategy, Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) is implemented as part of the Rajiv Awas Yojana Scheme. It is implemented by the States/UTs through partnership with private sector or public sector including parastatal bodies like housing boards, municipal bodies.

The scheme provides Rs. 75,000 of actual grant assistance per EWS/LIG dwelling unit of upto 40 sq.m size for housing and internal development components with an objective to encourage private sector participation in affordable housing. A project must build at least 250 dwelling units to avail benefits under the scheme. The DUs can be a mix of EWS/LIG-A/LIG-B/Higher Categories/Commercial of which at least 60 per cent of the FAR/FSI should be used for dwelling units of carpet area of not more than 60 sq.m to avail benefit under AHP. In addition, 35 per cent of the total number of dwelling units constructed should be of carpet area 21-27 sq.m for EWS category.

(b) and (c) Out of Rs. 35,810 crore for Twelfth Five Year Plan for RAY, Rs. 2500 crore has been allocated for AHP Scheme. AHP is a demand driven scheme and progress depends on the commitment of States to mobilize technical and financial resources of both public and private sector.