

[5 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

housing for economically weaker sections are being vigorously implemented with a view to ameliorate the conditions of the urban poor.

Chinese investment in infrastructure sector

1. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has called for expanding bilateral ties with India in the infrastructure sector, keeping in view a spurt in East Asian countries' construction industry after its accession to the World Trade Organization;

(b) if so, whether China International Construction Association (CHINCA) Vice-Chairman has pointed out that Chinese companies were keen to explore projects with Indian companies on BOT basis in the areas including railways, housing, hospitals and bridges;

(c) if so, whether Government have accepted the Chinese proposal;

(d) if so, whether any agreement has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (e) Vice-Chairman, China International Construction Association (CHINCA) had recently during an interaction with Indian businessmen expressed the desire of Chinese companies to jointly explore projects on BOT basis in areas like railways, housing, hospitals, bridges, etc.

The Chinese companies have been participating in the process of award of works in the infrastructure sector.

Financial assistance to coffee growers

2. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended a special financial assistance to the coffee growers to tide over the economic crisis in the sector during 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of subsidy given to the coffee growers during 2003-04;