

Status of houses under Bhakra Management Board

*206. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government houses in the Nangal township which are now under the control of the Bhakra Management Board, category-wise;

(b) the number of occupied houses and those lying vacant and the period for which they have been vacant;

(c) the condition of these houses; and

(d) whether there is any policy to save these houses and since Government Officials demand is not there, whether these could be given on rent to private persons?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) According to the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), their colony at Nangal has 3827 houses against 4735 employees of BBMB and other departments. The houses falling vacant are allotted to eligible and willing officials and there is no fixed period of vacation. The details of houses in Nangal Township under the control of BBMB, including the number of houses occupied and lying vacant is given below:—

Category	Total Houses	Occupied Houses	Vacant Houses
Bungalows	223	176	47
'A' Type	146	135	11
'B' Type	512	467	45
'C' Type	945	842	103
'D' Type	135	113	22
Class IV Type	1866	1558	308
TOTAL:	3827	3291	536

(c) and (d) BBMB have informed that regular repair and maintenance of these houses is being carried out by them. Further, work of renovation of the houses such as re-plastering of walls, terrazzo re-flooring etc. have also been initiated recently. Presently, about 830 posts of various categories are lying vacant. These posts are falling in the share of the partner States as BBMB is to be provided its allocated strength from the partner States. On filling up of these vacancies, the houses presently lying vacant are likely to get occupied.

Question patterns in written tests

*207. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NCERT has suggested revamping the question patterns in written tests, with more emphasis on short-answer type and multiple-choice questions;

(b) whether NCERT has discussed the matter with the Education Boards in the country;

(c) the names of the Boards with which NCERT has held discussions; and

(d) the reaction of each of the Boards regarding the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 prepared by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has suggested a shift from content-based testing to problem solving and competency based testing with emphasis on short answer type questions and well designed multiple choice questions.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) NCERT held discussions with State Examination Boards in four regional meetings held at Shillong, Ajmer, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar on 17-18 July, 2007, 31 July — 1 August, 2007, 05-06 August, 2007 and 22-23 August, 2007 respectively. The list of Boards that participated in these meetings is given in the Statement (*See below*).

NCERT has also undertaken the Capacity Building Programme in Education Evaluation with the States of Jammu and Kashmir in September 2005, Goa in October 2005, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar in September, 2006, Mizoram and Assam in November 2006, Uttarakhand in June, 2007 and Madhya Pradesh in August, 2007.

(d) The reaction of the Boards has been generally positive. Central Board of Secondary Education and School Boards of Haryana, Kerala and Goa have made a beginning in implementing some of the recommendations.

Statement

Names of the Boards with which NCERT held discussions

Sl. No.	Venue	Dates	Participating Boards
1.	RIE Shillong	17 -18 July, 07	Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam
2.	RIE Ajmer	31 July — 1 August, 07	Punjab, Rajasthan, CBSE, Haryana, CICSE
3.	RIE Bhopal	05-06 August, 07	Madhya Pradesh, Goa
4.	RIE Bhubaneswar	22-23 August, 07	West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa