

Housing

37. The Central government provide policy guidelines for housing programmes for various target groups and supplements the efforts of the state governments by implementing certain central sector/centrally sponsored schemes mainly for the benefit of urban poor.

38. A new National Housing and Habitat Policy 1998 has been formulated which was approved and laid before the Parliament on 29.7.1998. The objectives of the policy are to facilitate construction of 20 lakh dwelling units each year with emphasis on the poor. Out of 20 lakh additional houses, 7 lakh houses would be constructed in urban areas and 13 lakh in rural areas. HUDCO is expected to meet more than 55 per cent of the target i.e. 4 lakh units and the balance 3 lakh units per year will be met by other housing financial institutions recognised by the National Housing Bank, corporate sector and cooperatives.

39. A scheme of Night Shelter and Sanitation Facilities for the urban footpath dwellers is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme in the metropolitan and other major urban centres. 61 schemes benefiting more than 40000 footpath dwellers have been sanctioned by HUDCO as on 31.10.1998 in various parts of the country since April 1991. A sum of Rs.1600

crore has been provided as central outlay in 1998-99 (BE) for rural housing with a target to construct 923908 houses under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) in the current year. The existing housing programme of the IAY for construction of new houses free of cost for the target group below the poverty line comprising SCs/STs, freed bonded labourers and also non-SC/ST families will continue. In addition, a new component for upgradation of kutcha and unserviceable houses will be introduced.

40. The Government has promulgated an ordinance to repeal the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation), Act 1976 (ULCRA). It will be implemented in all Union territories and two states of Haryana and Punjab. This was aimed at speedy growth in sectors like housing and transport, land assembly, development and disposal of excess land would be facilitated. The Delhi Rent Act, 1995 was enacted for overcoming the shortcomings in the existing Rent Act but after taking into consideration various representations, the government decided to amend the Act to make it more acceptable and encourage improvement in housing sector. Accordingly, the Delhi Rent (Amendment Bill) was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28.7.1998. The proposed Bill has again been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Affairs.