

Housing

10.59 The National Housing and Habitat Policy 1998, has been formulated to address the issues of sustainable development of housing infrastructure through strong public-private partnership. It also seeks to ensure that housing, along with supporting services, is treated as priority sector at par with infrastructure.

10.60 The central theme of this policy is the much expanded role of private sector for tackling housing and infrastructure problems. The Government recognises the urgent need to provide fiscal concessions, carry out legal and regulatory reforms in order to create a conducive environment for housing construction. The repeal of Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act (ULCRA) 1976 last year is expected to provide the necessary stimulus in this direction. The private sector would have to be encouraged to undertake construction activities and invest and run supportive infrastructure services.

10.61 Under the Special Action Plan, 2 million additional houses is targeted to be constructed every year. Out of which, 0.7 million houses would be constructed in urban areas and 1.3 million in rural areas. Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) is expected

to meet more than 55 per cent of the target, that is 0.4 million units and the balance 0.3 million units per year will be met by other housing financial institutions recognized by the National Housing Bank, Corporate sector and Cooperative Housing Societies. During 1999-2000, the overall achievement in urban areas is 0.7 million dwelling units with HUDCO financing 0.5 million additional units.

10.62 HUDCO's mandate provides for allocating 55 per cent of housing loan for economically weaker sections and low income groups. During 1999-2000 and as on 31.03.2000, HUDCO sanctioned loans of RS.8900 crore for housing and urban infrastructure schemes against MoU target of Rs.3030 crore. The actual loan amount released by HUDCO during the same period was Rs.4374 crore against MoU target of RS.2450 crore. The 628 schemes sanctioned during 1999-2000 enabled 1.64 million residential units, with 1 million units benefiting rural areas and the balance 0.6 million units in urban areas besides augmentation of water supply and drainage facilities. More than 94 per cent of the total residential units sanctioned during the year were meant for EWS/LIG (1.53 million units).