

Minimum Accommodation Standards

B.757.

APPENDIX IV.

SUMMARIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY SUB-COMMITTEES.

A. SUB-COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL TRENDS.

- Immediate: (a) An approach to the Government, through the appropriate Departments, to urge the full registration of Native births and deaths and the collection of other necessary data on the structure of the Native population, and to urge the holding of a census of the whole population simultaneously every five years, together with an accommodation census at the same intervals of time. *on the devising of plans which would obtain the necessary information*
- (b) The setting up of study-teams for the further study of the problems of family economics, and social trends in general.

B. SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION.

The Sub-Committee makes the following general recommendations regarding legislation controlling and defining minimum standards of accommodation in housing:-

1. In view of the uncertainty that exists regarding the basis on which the fundamental laws governing ventilation, free air space per person, the provision of heating, lighting, sanitation and hygiene were framed, and of the uncertainty as to which of several mutually contradictory standards should be taken as the authentic minimum, it is recommended that research be undertaken without delay in order to establish scientifically the minimum physiological conditions necessary for the preservation of health, taking into account also such factors as the psychological and sociological elements which may bear some relation to the physiological conditions mentioned, and the factors of utility and convenience.
2. It is recommended that all the various enactments which lay down, in whole or in part, minimum standards of accommodation relating to dwellings should be superseded by a single Consolidating Act covering completely all those aspects of minimum standards of accommodation which safeguard the preservation of health and morality, protect the integrity of the family, and prescribe the necessary minimum basic requirements as to the measures of hygiene and sanitation and the heating, cooking and artificial lighting installations necessary to these ends. Such an Act should also lay down the minimum communal services required within the housing estate to preserve the health and well-being of the Community and so to promote the development and maintenance of the qualities of good citizenship.

The requirements of the Consolidating Act suggested, which could possibly take the form of an Amendment to an existing Act - e.g. the Public Health Act or the Housing Act - should take precedence over and supersede the inconsistent and often contradictory requirements of the Acts and

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