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5 Feb. 1988

## \$976m extra sought for housing

The Housing Authority is seeking nearly \$1 billion more from the Government for public rental housing projects.

And the Finance Committee will decide today whether to approve the proposed financial package.

If it gets the go-ahead, the additional sum of \$976 million would be drawn from the Development Loan Fund for the authority's public rental projects for the four years from 1986/87 to 1989/90.

It will enable the authority to draw up to \$3,194 million

for its projects for the period, and will include \$622.7 million to be spent on redevelopment of structurally defective public housing blocks.

Work on clearing the 26 blocks under the Housing Department's extended redevelopment programme has already begun and will continue until July 1989.

A total of 14,519 new flats will be built on cleared areas over this period - in addition to the 30,000-plus rental flats that will be built each year.

The \$3,194 million will enable the authority to achieve the Government's aim of maintaining an overall annual production of at least 40,000 flats, including those built by the Housing Department for the Government's Home Ownership Scheme and those built by private developers for the private sector participation scheme.

The latest request will bring to \$14,241 million the amount of loans made by the Development Loan Fund for Housing Authority rental projects since June 1977.

Another request before the Finance Committee will be for

\$256 million as supplementary education provision, largely for meeting increases in staff salaries of organisations subvented on a deficiency grant basis, such as aided schools, in line with the revised civil service pay scales which came into effect from April 1 last year.

Meanwhile, the adequacy of medical facilities and training of related professionals will be the predominant issue among the 16 questions to be raised by the Unofficial Members at today's Legislative Council meeting.

Mr Lee Yu-tai will ask for statistics on mental illness in the last three years and whether existing medical facilities are adequate.

Three questions will be raised by Dr Chiu Hin-kwong concerning the in-service training and career prospects for the nursing profession, the manpower situation and staff structure for anaesthetists and pathologists in public hospitals, and the number of registered dentists and those who are still in practice.

Mr Hui Yin-fat will ask about the progress in starting a

training centre for speech therapists and whether the training course will be implemented in 1988 as scheduled.

Mr Poon Chi-fai will make inquiries on facilities for the physically handicapped.

Mr Hui will ask whether the Government will consider launching neighbourhood community development projects in crowded post-war areas, while Mr Chan Ying-lun wants to know about police action to eliminate drug taking and trafficking "black spots."

Dr Helmut Sohmen will seek clarification on whether the grounds for denying entry permits, except in special circumstances, to bona fide tourists or businessmen wishing to visit Hongkong from Eastern European countries are still valid, and whether a more liberal policy will be applied in future.