

**Parliament: Teachers' Quarters Unoccupied Because Teachers Not Willing To Forego Housing Allowance**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- The Dewan Rakyat was told Monday that among the reasons for teachers' quarters being left unoccupied was due to the unwillingness of teachers' to forego their housing allowance (ITP).

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong said the ITP was given to teachers who did not occupy housing quarters provided by the government.

"Teachers who stay in teachers' quarters will not be paid the ITP.

"For teachers in Padang Terap, for example. They can rent a house for about RM300 a month. So, they choose to stay outside to continue to receive the ITP," he said in response to a supplementary question by Mohd Nasir Zakaria (PAS-Padang Terap).

Wee said the ITP given to teachers was based on their grades, which was RM300 for those in DG41, DG44 (RM400) and DG48 (RM550).

"If they stay in teachers' quarters, the ministry will deduct half of the ITP they are getting.

"This in one of the factors why teachers opt to rent a place elsewhere than to stay at the teachers' quarters," he added.

On a proposal by Datuk Lilah Yasin (BN-Jempol) for the quarters to be leased out as hostels for Form Six students, Wee said the ministry accepted the proposal, but that priority would be for teachers.

"It is true that there are many quarters which are unoccupied in Kedah, but we plan to use them as training centres for trainee teachers," he added.

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