

(b) whether the proposal also includes simplifying the procedure for sanction of loans, etc; and

(c) the steps his Ministry has taken to get approval from Government for upgradation of HUDCO from Schedule 'B' to Schedule 'A' public sector enterprise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation have initiated several steps to restructure and revamp Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) and to streamline and simplify the procedures for processing of applications and sanction of loans, in an efforts to make it more professional in its approach towards its customers. The Board of Directors of HUDCO have decided to bring about reforms in the system so as to gear itself up for higher turn-over and to make its operations more effective and profitable. Consequently, an internal operational order has also been issued *inter-alia* redefining roles and responsibilities and delegation of powers at its Regional and Zonal Offices including streamlining and simplifying the systems/ procedures for issue of sanctions/releases of funds and to reassess the manpower requirements ws-a-wsthe operational needs.

(c) Government have already approved upgradation of HUDCO from Schedule B to Schedule A company.

Welfare schemes in Punjab and U.P.

*220. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of social welfare schemes being implemented in Punjab and U.P. by Government and the amount provided for the same, district-wise;

(b) the manner in which this spending is controlled by Government;

(c) whether there is any scheme for the welfare of Backwards, SCs, STs and border areas of Punjab; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the same is being implemented during the year 2002-2003 and budgetary allocations made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Ministry is implementing 32 schemes in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. No allocation is made district-wise.

(b) The Ministry's schemes in the Central Sector and the Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented through State Government/UT Administrations and NGOs. The progress of implementation of these schemes is monitored through a mechanism comprising periodical progress reports submitted by the implementing agencies and inspection/evaluation and recommendation by the nodal Departments of the State Government, Inspection Teams/institutions designated by the Ministries, as well as the apex bodies/National Institutes etc. The grants for the ongoing programmes are released after taking into account the performance report, audited accounts and utilization certificates in respect of grant released during the preceding years.

(c) and (d) The Government of India implements a schemes called Border Area Development Programme in the blocks of Punjab on the international border 100% funding is being provided by the Planning Commission for undertaking activities in Education, Health, Agriculture, development of infrastructure and in the social sector. An amount of Rs. 10.08 crore has been allocated in 2002-03 to the Government of Punjab under this programme.

Report of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on NER

1184. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the report of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the North-Eastern States has recommended that the Planning Commission should rationalise the allocation of funds on the basis of poverty ratio between the States;

(b) whether the Centre-Region ratio for the North Eastern Region should be 90 : 10 against the present ratio of 75 : 25; and

(c) if so, what are the Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee on North Eastern Region to