

- (a) whether Government have since taken a decision to the effect that D.R.D.A. be presided over by the local Members of Parliament;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and since when it is likely to be implemented;
- (c) what will be the status of the Members of Rajya Sabha in D.R.D.A. and whether they will also be appointed as Chairman; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) to (d) The question of affording an enhanced role to local Members of Parliament in the functioning of the District Rural Development Agencies (D.R.D.As) is under active consideration.

Improving the Condition of Rural Poor

743. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have studied the contents of the newsitem titled "Remove urban bias in planning process" appearing in The Hindustan Times, dated 9th February, 2000.
- (b) whether the Indian Rural Development Report 1999 points out that while 70 per cent people live in rural areas, the total allocation for the rural development is only 12 per cent and a number of rural laws are to be scrapped to give the poor a level playing field;
- (c) if so, what sincere efforts are being made by Government in this regard; and
- (d) by when the condition of the rural poor would improve?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government have been according high priority to rural development and the allocations to this sector have been stepped up substantially, over the years, for undertaking programmes for the benefit of the rural poor. The major programmes of rural development have been restructured from the current financial year to give more focussed attention to the target beneficiaries. Particular emphasis is being laid on rural connectivity, rural water supply and rural housing.

[1 March, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

The Condition of the rural poor has steadily improved, as part of a continuing process to which special attention is being accorded.

RD Schemes of Andhra Pradesh pending Approval

744. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have submitted a number of rural development schemes for approval during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details of schemes/projects submitted and the details of those approved, year-wise; and
- (c) when the remaining schemes would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted 33 projects for providing safe drinking water supply under Sub-Mission Projects during 1996-97 and 1997-98. Since 1-4-98 all powers for sanctioning sub mission projects have been delegated to the State Government. In' addition, proposals in respect of 5 pilot projects have been received for implementation of sector reforms. These projects are under consideration of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Under Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP) Scheme, 21 Projects have been received during the last three years, out of which 13 projects have been sanctioned and 8 projects are under process for sanction. No time frame can be fixed for sanction of the projects as it depends upon the viability of the project and availability of funds. The IWDP projects have been prioritised in consultation with the State Govt, of Andhra Pradesh for sanction.

Two special project proposals viz (i) Setting up of Technology and Training Development Centres in Andhra Pradesh and (ii) Setting up of Permanent Marketing Centres have been received under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) from the State Govt, of Andhra Pradesh and are under consideration of the Ministry.

Under Rural Sanitation Programme, two proposals for construction of Sanitary latrines at the cost of Rs. 32 crore and Rs. 126.03 crore respectively and one Integrated Rural Sanitation Project at the cost of Rs. 259.97 crore were received during last three years for which clarification are awaited from the State Government. Two projects namely, (a) Integrated Sanitation approach in 4 districts of East Godawari, West Godawari, Krishna and Guntur with