

Development of most backward districts

†5627. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a multi-purpose plan under Minimum Common programme for the development of most backward districts of the country;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof;

(c) the names of districts covered under the said plan;

(d) whether any time-bound programme has been evolved for implementation of this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (e) A Committee (headed by Principal Adviser, Planning Commission) was constituted in 1997 to, *inter alia*, identify the 100 most backward / poorest districts in the country. The broad-parameters adopted by the Committee to analyse the causes of backwardness, included indicators of deprivation (poverty ratio) and social and economic infrastructure. The 100 most backward/poorest districts identified by the Committee included 38 districts in Bihar, 19 districts in Madhya Pradesh, 17 districts in Uttar Pradesh, 10 districts in Maharashtra, 4 districts each in Orissa and West Bengal, 2 districts each in Rajasthan and Sikkim and 1 district each in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

The Report of the Committee has since been circulated to all States/UTs for their comments. There is no decision to have special action plan for these 100 most backward and poorest districts.

Construction of rural roads in Uttar Pradesh

†5628. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are district-wise comprehensive details of construction of new roads by Government in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the total amount of funds sanctioned and actually allocated by Government for construction of roads during the above period;

(c) whether Government propose to take up construction of certain new

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

roads in the State of Uttar Pradesh, particularly in rural areas, during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) to (d) Government are presently engaged in the process of drawing up a National Rural Roads Programme (NRRP) for construction of roads in the rural areas of the country, including in Uttar Pradesh, for which requisite Master Plans / Projects are to be formulated.

While funds have not yet been sanctioned, an allocation of Rs. 358.76 crore is tentatively being earmarked for the State of Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2000-2001.

SCs / STs living below poverty line

5629. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of persons belonging to the SCs / STs are living below poverty line even now;

(b) if so, indicate the percentage of persons belonging to the SCs / STs who are living below poverty line as of now as compared to the total population of the country living below poverty line; and

(c) the action initiated by Government to bring the persons belonging to the SCs / STs above poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) As per the latest estimates of poverty, obtained by the Planning Commission, 48.11% of the Scheduled Caste and 51.94% of the Scheduled Tribe population lived below the poverty line in rural areas in 1993-94. In urban areas, the percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population living below the poverty line has been estimated at 49.48% and 41.14% respectively in that year. Among the entire population the percentage of people living below the poverty line is estimated at 37.27% in rural areas and 32.36% in urban areas in 1993-94.

(c) Various poverty alleviation programmes are being implemented under Tribal Sub-Plan and Special Component Plan strategy. In addition various Central and Centrally sponsored programmes are being implemented by the States and UTs, besides State sector programmes to improve the standard of living of SCs / STs living below poverty line.