

[13 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken so that money earmarked for welfare of vulnerable sections of society are properly utilised?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM):

(a) No Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry has been emphasizing States/UTs to strengthen the monitoring mechanism so as to ensure that funds earmarked for tribal development are properly utilized.

Tribals demanding withdrawal of forestry project in Madhya Pradesh

1202. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals are demanding withdrawal of Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project funded by the World Bank;

(b) if so, the cause of their agitation; and

(c) the action envisaged towards ensuring the survival of both forests and forest communities of tribals in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) Njlass Tribal Organisations (MTO) of Madhya Pradesh has asked the World Bank to discontinue Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project (a World Bank assisted project) and not to consider Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project Phase-II for funding, due to the project being harmful to the interest of the tribals. The contention of the MTO has not been found to be correct by the State Government.

Budgetary provision for Tribal Welfare

1203. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost Rs. 700 crores were provided in the budget for the tribal welfare during 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(b) if so, the details of budget allocation for various tribal projects programmes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM):

(a) The budget allocations for tribal Welfare during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are Rs. 551.00 crores and Rs. 630.00 crores respectively.

(b) State/UT wise budget allocation for various tribal programmes are not made. Funds are released when proposals are received from State/UTs.

Private investment for Urban Employment

1204. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to increase private investments in infrastructure sectors in cities and towns to increase the scope for urban employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how Government do plan to increase employment opportunities in urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Urban Development have reported that the Government are considering proposals to provide the fiscal concessions to promote private/corporate sector investment and Public-Private partnerships in the Urban Infrastructure projects like Water Supply, Drainage, Sewerage, Solid Waste Management, Roads, Light Rail Transit System (LRTS), Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) and New Township Development. As an off-shoot of these efforts of the Government, urban employment may increase.

(c) Apart from employment generated by investment in infrastructure this Ministry is implementing Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), a Centrally sponsored scheme, w.e.f. 1.12.1997. The Scheme seeks to provide gainful employment to urban unemployed or under employed poor living below poverty line by encouraging them to set up self-employment ventures and through wage employment. Skill development through appropriate training is another element of this programme. This programme is also aimed at generating urban employment.