

[22 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, by when the said amount would be provided to Uttar Pradesh Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) A proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh requesting funds to the tune of Rs. 96.00 lakhs for construction of roads in dacoit infested regions in that State is under consideration of the Central Government. The funds will be released as soon as a final view is taken on the proposal.

Food for work scheme

†2269. **SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start food for work employment scheme throughout the Country; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reason therefor; and

(b) whether any study has been carried out on the ways to provide employment in the areas affected by natural calamities drought, cyclone, floods, etc. so that resultoriented work can be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) No, Sir. There is already an Employment Assurance Scheme since 1993-94. It has been restructured with effect from 1.4.1999. Its primary objective is creation of additional wage employment opportunities during the period of acute shortage of wage employment through manual work for the rural poor living below the poverty line.

(b) No such study has been conducted. However, under the Restructured Employment Scheme 30% of the allocated funds are reserved at the district level and shall be utilised by Zilla Parishads in the areas suffering from endemic labour exodus/ areas of distress. In addition, Ministry of Agriculture provides additional assistance under National Calamity Relief Fund for employment generation in the areas affected by natural calamities.

Funds received by voluntary organisations through CAPART in Bihar

†2270. **SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds received by voluntary organisations, in Madhubani district of Bihar from CAPART during the last three years and the current year organisation-wise; and

(b) the details of project-wise expenditure therefrom?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.