

(c) As on 1-4-1998, the distributorship has 3930 number of customers and all of them have been issued the Subscription Vouchers.

Survey to determine backwardness in Tripura

2563. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose fresh survey in Tripura to determine the level of backwardness in the State; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Tripura is, however, one of the States covered under all-India surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in their various rounds, the last such surveys (54th round - January to June, 1998) was on 'Use of Common Property Resources, Sanitation and Hygiene & Services' and on 'Consumer expenditure and Employment & Unemployment'.

Increase in the allocations for MPLAD Fund

2564. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to double the amount of MPLAD Fund i.e making it to Rs. 2 crores;

(b) if so, by when an announcement is expected; and

(c) by when Government plan to reimburse the interest amount to the MP's fund in regard to amount paid late in the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Some MPs have requested for enhancing funds under MPLADS from Rs. 1 crore to 2 crores. The request is under consideration. However, no decision has been taken by the Govt, in this regard so far. The funds are released to the MPs with reference to the actual progress achieved in expenditure and execution of works. Hence the question of payment of interest to the delayed releases does not arise.

Enhancement of Sub-hill plan budgetary provision of Assam

2565. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for enhancement of Sub-hill plan budgetary provision of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Sub-Plan for Designated Hill Areas of Assam includes flow from State Plan and Special Central Assistance (SCA) under Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP). SCA under HADP is distributed amongst the Designated Hill Areas on the basis of area and population giving equal weightage to each these variables. The Union Budget for 1998-99 has proposed an enhanced allocation of Rs. 390 crore for Hill Areas Development Programme against Rs. 352

crore allocated last year i.e. 1997-98. Hence the provision for designated Hill areas of Assam is also expected to increase.

Funds allotted for social sector

2566. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the social sectors are starved of funds;

(b) if so, the funds requirement of the social sectors and allotments made during the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Plans, sector-wise; and

(c) how Government propose to fill the gap between requirement and availability of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The inter-se sectoral allocations in the Five Year Plans are made keeping in view the overall resource position and the requirements of different sectors. There has been a steady increase in the funds allocated to social Services in the Plan outlay, 14.4% in the Sixth Plan, 17.5% in the Seventh Plan and 18.2% in the Eighth Plan. The details of the allocations made for various social services during Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Plan are given in the following table:

Plan-wise Outlay for Social Services

(Rs.Crore)

Sector	Sixth Plan	Seventh Plan	Eighth Plan
<i>Social Services</i> (i)	2523.7	6382.6	19599.7
Education			
(ii) Medical & Public Health	2831.0	3392.9	7575.9
(iii) Family Welfare		3256.3	6500.0
m Housing	2488.4	2428.2	5273.0
(v) Urban Development		1801.3	5277.0
(vi) Other Social Services	6192.1	14283.9*	34786.3
TOTAL (i to vi)	14035.2 (14.4)	31545.2 (17.5)	79011.9 (18.2)

NOTE: Figures in brackets are percentages to the total Plan outlay.

* Provision for Special Employment Scheme is also included.

2. The Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan approved unanimously by the National Development Council in its meeting held on 16.01.1997 lays special emphasis on the quality of life and has set out, inter alia, the following objectives

which have direct bearing on social sector:

- (i) Priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty;
- (ii) Ensuring food and nutritional security for all, particularly the vulnerable sections of society;