

Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and State Sector Minimum Needs Programme are under implementation to provide Sanitation and Drinking Water facilities in the rural areas.

Assistance to rural artisans in Orissa

2838. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the specific scheme under which the rural artisans of Orissa are being assisted by the Centre; and

(b) the number and details of rural artisans benefited under the Scheme in the State during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment is implementing the Scheme of Supply of Improved Tool Kits to the Rural Artisans in the entire country including the State of Orissa. Under the scheme, rural artisans from different crafts except weavers, tailors, needle-workers and beedi-workers living below the poverty line are being assisted.

23,823 numbers of rural artisans have been benefited so far in the State of Orissa under the Scheme during VIIIth Five Year Plan.

National Social Assistance Programme in Andhra Pradesh

2839. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Social Assistance Programme for the benefit of rural women and old people has been of the successful programmes so far in

Andhra Pradesh, in comparison to other State;

(b) if so, the total allocation made to Andhra Pradesh during 1995-96 and the amount utilized;

(c) the allocation made during 1996-97 and the amount released so far; and

(d) to what extent the State Government has implemented the Scheme and utilized the funds for Social Assistance Programme, and what is the total benefit derived by the rural women of Minority Communities and those who are backward?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) alongwith its three components viz., National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS), is being implemented successfully in Andhra Pradesh. Under this programme, Central Assistance is given to rural as well as urban households below the poverty line as per terms and conditions laid down in NSAP Guidelines.

(b) During 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 4675.42 lakhs was allocated to Andhra Pradesh for the three schemes of NSAP. The State utilised an amount of Rs. 3913.58 lakhs out of amount of Rs. 4675.42 lakhs released during the year.

(c) During 1996-97, an amount of Rs. 7896.11 lakhs was allocated to the State for the three schemes of NSAP. Out of this an amount of Rs. 6885.06 lakhs has been released so far.

(d) The allocation, releases, expenditure and number of beneficiaries during the year 1996-97 in respect of three schemes of NSAP are given below:—