

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation has been implementing a unified Centrally Sponsored urban poverty alleviation programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) with effect from 01.12.1997, subsuming all previous Urban Poverty Alleviation (UPA) programmes, with a view to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor. The programme is funded in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the States. Central funds amounting to Rs. 375.87 crores were released to the States/UTs under SJSRY from 01.12.1997 to 31st March 2000. States have reported the release of their share amounting to Rs. 69.47 crores for the same period. An unspent balance of Rs. 543.42 crores (tentatively) from old UPA programmes had also been reported by the States/UTs. Thus, out of the availability of total fund of Rs. 988.76 crores, the States/UTs had reported availability of an unspent balance of Rs. 582.43 crores with them till 31st March 2000.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. SJSRY is an ongoing scheme.

(d) Guidelines have been issued to all the States/UTs for effective implementation of the scheme. Government is monitoring the scheme through (i) the Quarterly Progress Reports, (ii) field visits and (iii) review meetings at the level of Minister/Secretary with Secretaries of the States/UTs.

Diversion of Tribal Development Funds

***19. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:**

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds for tribal development are being diverted by certain districts and States; and

(b) if so, the names of such districts and States and the steps taken to ensure proper utilization of the funds to end agony of the tribals for whom potable water and electricity are still a luxury?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) In the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 1998, it has, *inter-alia*, been brought out that scrutiny of records in selected districts of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh,

Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal and Daman & Diu revealed that funds aggregating Rs. 85.88 crores, which pertain to Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan were diverted to other schemes/activities. These observations are based on sample check of documents for the period 1992-98 of the Ministry and the implementing departments and agencies of 17 States and one U.T. The matter has been taken up with the State Govts. concerned.

(b) In order to ensure timely utilization of funds provided for the welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Tribes and minimize the scope for diversion of funds, the following measures have been taken:—

1. Utilization Certificates are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds;

2. Periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained;

3. Central Government Officers visit the States/UTs for ascertaining, on-the spot, the progress of implementation of schemes;

4. Meetings/conferences are convened at central level with State Secretaries of Tribal Welfare to ensure timely submission of proposals for the release of funds and to speed up implementation of schemes;

5. At the State level, the agencies like Tribal Advisory Council, Project Implementation Committees of ITDPs at Block levels and Panchayat Samities monitor timely spending of funds and effective implantation of schemes.

Withdrawal of Singapore Airlines from AI Disinvestment Process

*20. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for withdrawal of Singapore Airlines from the process of disinvestment of Air India; and

(b) the precautionary measures taken to prevent such withdrawal from the disinvestment process?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Singapore Airlines Limited (SIA) have stated the following reasons for their withdrawal from the disinvestment process of Air India;