

Food-for-Work Programme for flood-hit farmers in A.P.

1168. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received to extend the Food-for-Work Programme to cover flood-hit farmers in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for extension of Food-for-Work Programme to cover flood-hit area has been received recently. The same is being processed.

Low reach of Poverty Alleviation Programmes

1169. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Poverty Alleviation Programmes under IRDP projects had improved only one-third of the population; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to cover the remaining two-thirds of the population, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) As per concurrent evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) — Vth round (1995-96), 46.34% beneficiaries assisted under the IRDP had crossed the poverty line of Rs. 11000/-.

The IRDP and its allied schemes i.e. Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Toolkits in Rural Areas

(SITRA) and Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) have been restructured into a new self-employment programme namely the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for the rural poor, launched w.e.f. 1.4.99. The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by providing them income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and the Government subsidy. It has been envisaged, subject to availability of funds, to cover 30% of the rural poor during next five years from the day of launching of the programme.

The SGSY has been conceived as a holistic Programme of self-employment covering all aspects of self-employment viz. organisation of the rural poor in to Self Help Groups and their capacity building, training, selection of key activities, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build up and technology and marketing support. The SGSY particularly focuses on the disadvantaged sections of the rural poor and safeguards have been provided by way of reserving 50% benefits for SCs/STs, 40% for women and 3% for persons with disability.

**Consumption of contaminated water by rural people
of Karnataka**

1170. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 35 per cent of the rural people in the country are drinking poor quality water contaminated chemically and biologically, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in many Districts of Karnataka the rural people are drinking poor quality water which is leading to diseases; and

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has sought financial assistance from the Central Government, if so, the details thereof and the amount released for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) As per information received from the States and UTs, as on 1-4-1999, it is estimated that there are 2,17,211 habitations in the country affected