

[21 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

1	2	3	4	5	6
28	Tripura	1119.32	1119.32	2386.93	1790.19
	SUB-TOTAL	11900.00	11900.00	27404.50	20553.43
UTs					
29	A&N Islands	20.00	20.00	78.42	71.89
30	Chandigarh	16.00	16.00	16.00	14.67
31	D&N Haveli	15.00	15.00	78.42	71.89
32	Daman & Diu	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.67
33	NCT Delhi	567.00	567.00	567.00	519.75
34	Lakshadweep	5.00	5.00	5.60	5.13
35	Pondicherry	115.00	115.00	115.00	105.42
	SUB TOTAL	742.00	742.00	864.44	792.41
GRAND TOTAL		119000.00	118971.00	280054.25	210184.89

E-Choupal initiative

2554. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a private company, with the help of 'e-Choupal initiative' is endeavouring to bring development in the rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up such measures of public-private partnership, that can transform lives and landscapes in rural India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken to enhance IT awareness in rural areas and the allocation made therefor during the last three years, year-wise and the actuals of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) ITC limited, a private sector company, under its 'e-Choupal initiative', provides an alternate market to the farmer to take decision to sell his agricultural produce on the basis of the information made available about the rates in different wholesale markets.

(b) to (e) The Government of India approved the Common Service Centers (CSC) Scheme on September 26, 2006 for establishment of more than one lakh broadband and Internet enabled CSCs across rural India on a Public-Private Partnership model. The CSCs are envisioned as the front-end delivery points for Government, private and social sector services to rural citizens of India.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has formulated a Model Law in consultation with the State Governments on agricultural marketing to promote direct marketing, contract farming and setting up of markets in private and cooperative sector. This Model Act has been circulated to all the States/UTs to amend their Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act (APMC Act) suitably, wherever required, as suggested in the Model Act.

Rural housing in the country

2555. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India faces a huge task for rural housing in the country, especially for people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Centre to bridge this gap in rural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per Registrar General of India's estimate of rural housing shortage based on Census 2001, there is a shortage of 148.33 lakh houses in rural areas throughout the country as per State-wise figures given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Within the overall financial resources available, the Government is allocating funds under IAY every year for providing financial assistance to the rural BPL households for construction of their dwelling units. Under 'Bharat Nirman' Programme, 60 lakh houses are envisaged to be constructed during a period of four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09.