

to implement various Rural Development Schemes/Programmes is more than Rs. 84,000 crore for the year 2010-11.

(c) As per the performance reports received from various States/UTs, the overall performances of Rural Development schemes have been found satisfactory.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Ministry of Rural Development has advised the State to adopt a five- pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency, (iii) people's partnership, (iv) accountability, social audit and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring at all level. With a view to strengthen the monitoring mechanism of programmes, the Ministry has been effectively using web based Management Information System (MIS).

***Special commission for selecting BPL families in Bihar***

‡2159. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Bihar has submitted a proposal for constituting a special commission to identify Below the Poverty Line (BPL) families in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the action being taken on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) In response to a letter from the Ministry of Rural Development regarding finalization of methodology for the forthcoming BPL Census and preparatory steps to be taken by States/UTs, Government of Bihar has *vide* its communication dated 1st February, 2011 recommended for setting up an independent BPL commission under the leadership of a person of eminence and assisted by a team of experts. However, prior to the receipt of the letter, the Ministry of Rural Development has already based on the suggestions/recommendations of States/UTs and experts as well as the findings of the pilot socio-economic survey formulated a draft methodology for conducting the forthcoming BPL Census and has decided to seek approval of Cabinet for the same.

***Funds for safe drinking water in rural and tribal areas***

2160. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds were allocated for safe drinking water in rural and tribal areas of the country, particularly in Gujarat;

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.