

[31st July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if-so, the action being taken by Government to give these people their due rights?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c)
The information is being collected.

Welfare Programmes for SCs/STs

909. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the lacunae in the implementation of programmes for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to monitor the welfare programmes of the SCs/STs and provide the benefit to them;

(c) the steps taken to monitor the proper utilization of the funds under the programmes in every State; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (d)
Schemes and programmes for the welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are reviewed on an on-going basis for removal of any bottlenecks and deficiencies that may be noticed during the course of their implementation. In order to ensure proper and timely implementation of the schemes and programmes and the intended benefits reach the target groups, an effective system of monitoring has been put in place, as indicated below:—

- (i) Release of funds to States/UTs. is made on the basis of a detailed examination of the proposals received.
- (ii) Utilization Certificates are insisted upon in respect of past releases before fresh releases are made.
- (iii) Periodic progress reports are obtained from the States/UTs. showing the progress of implementation of schemes, the beneficiaries covered and other relevant information/data.
- (iv) Senior officers from the Ministries visit the States/UTs to assess the progress of implementation of schemes.
- (v) Meetings with State Secretaries in charge of the subject are convened to ascertain the progress of implementation of schemes.

- (vi) In the case of schemes implemented through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), funds are released after obtaining the recommendations of the State Governments/U.Ts. and after an assessment of the standing of the NGO, past performance, etc. Apart from periodic progress reports, the NGOs are required to furnish Annual accounts and audited reports and Utilization Certificates on the basis of which further release of funds are made. Inspection of NGOs is also undertaken through State Government/U.T. officials, and other authorities and also by Central Government officers.

Uplifting the financial conditions of the Tribals

910. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is taking a number of steps for uplifting the financial conditions of the tribals of KBK areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUALORAM): (a) and (b) The Revised Long Term Action Plan formulated by the Union Planning Commission (1998-99 to 2006-2007) for development of the undivided districts of Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) in Orissa consists of Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors namely Agriculture, Horticulture, Watershed Development, Afforestation, Rural Employment, Irrigation, Health, Drinking Water, Rural Connectivity, etc.

After the initiation of the revised Long Term Action Plan, additional funds of Rs. 37 crore were provided in the Annual Plan 1998-99 of Orissa specifically for these districts. In addition, Rs. 7 crore were provided for the Emergency Feeding Programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units under BMS.

For Annual Plan 1999-2000, an additionality of Rs. 37 crore has been allocated over and above Rs. 10 crore earmarked for Drinking Water Supply, Rs. 8.60 crore for Emergency Feeding Programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units under BMS.