

Revisiting guidelines of CSS

2877. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to revisit the guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS); and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had set up a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of B.K.Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission to look into the issue of rationalization and restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to enhance their flexibility, scale and efficiency. The Sub-Committee suggested rationalization of the schemes, acceptance of which may entail some modifications in the guidelines of CSS. Such modifications, *inter-alia*, would include providing flexibility in physical and financial norms of CSS to all the States to enable State Governments to meet their special needs; introducing Flexi Fund by earmarking 10% of budget allocation in all Flagship Schemes and 20% in other CSS, which could be used by the State Governments on sub-schemes or components of CSS for which guidelines should be notified by the concerned Ministries; reforming procedure for transfer of funds to the States so as to gradually move over to transfers through the State budgets to ensure full accountability of States etc.

Funds for minority concentrated areas

2878. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Planning Commission is in the process of directing all administrative Ministries to earmark 15 per cent of funds for all Central Schemes for the minority concentrated areas;
- (b) whether the above hike has been recommended by the Steering Committee on Empowerment of Minorities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) in what manner Ministry would ensure spending of 15 per cent or more on Minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programmes for the welfare of Minorities was announced in June, 2006. In order to ensure that the benefits of these schemes flow equitably to the minorities, the new programme envisages location of a certain proportion of development projects in minority concentration areas. It also provides that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for the minorities.

(b) and (c) The Steering Committee on Empowerment of Minorities has *inter-alia* recommended that "towards ensuring that adequate funds and benefits reach the minorities, there is a need to revise the existing guidelines of earmarking '15% of funds wherever possible' to '15% and above' in proportion to the size of the minority population and prevailing backwardness and deficits. This would facilitate a larger minority population and concentrated areas to be covered under the development programmes, which otherwise stand excluded due to restricted 15% coverage".

(d) The schemes and programmes for welfare and development of Minorities are mainly implemented and monitored by the Ministry of Minority Affairs which ensures that these schemes and programmes are implemented as per their aims and objectives.

ACA fund to States

2879. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether every year Planning Commission allocates Additional Central Assistance to States;

(b) the details ACA fund available with Planning Commission; year-wise;

(c) if yes, details of ACA allocated to various States during the 11th Plan and the current years; State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the reason Gujarat being given very little ACA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) During the annual plan discussions, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to State Plan is allocated for various Plan Schemes. Budgeted ACA during Eleventh Plan and in the current year is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Allocation of ACA fund under different ACA schemes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc., to different States is governed by the different scheme guidelines which is framed by line Ministries/Departments. State-wise and year-wise allocation of ACA to various States during Eleventh Plan and in the current year is given in Annexure 26 [See Appendix 226 Annexure No.26]. The allocations under the ACA are made accordingly.