

was rolled out from 1 January, 2013 in 43 districts for 26 selected Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in a phase-wise manner. 8 Districts of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat States were not covered due to State Assembly Elections. The details of the identified schemes is given in the Statement-I. [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to SQ No. 259 (Part a)]. The details of the districts identified for DBT is given in the Statement-II. [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 1929 (Part b)]

(c) and (d) DBT roll out in 43 districts has been started only after having careful assessment about their readiness in terms of penetration of Aadhaar numbers and existence of bank accounts for the beneficiaries.

BPL population in Bihar

1945. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than half the population in Bihar is below the poverty line, as per the Tendulkar methodology;

(b) if so, whether Government is proposing any special assistance to Bihar to promote inclusive growth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) As per the Tendulkar methodology, 53.5 per cent of the population in Bihar is living below the poverty line in 2009-10.

(b) and (c) The Special Plan for Bihar was approved in 2003-04. An allocation of Rs. 1000 crore per annum was approved for the Special Plan during the Tenth Plan period after approval to the scheme in 2003-04 under the erstwhile Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. The same allocation was approved to be continued during the Eleventh Plan period under the Backward Regions Grant Fund. This allocation was enhanced to Rs.2000 crore for 2010-11 and Rs. 1470 crore for 2011-12. An allocation of Rs.1500 crore has been made for 2012-13. Funds are being released for various projects on 100% grant basis.

The projects namely, Development of State Highways, Rail-cum-Road Bridge, Strengthening of Sub-Transmission System, Renovation and Modernization of Barauni

and Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Stations, Bihar Ground Water Irrigation Scheme (which has replaced the Million Shallow Tubewell Programme), Restoration of Eastern Gandak Canal, Integrated Watershed Development Programme and Integrated Community Based Forest Management are being funded under the Special Plan for Bihar.

The aim of the programme is to accelerate socio-economic development in Bihar. Through the special plan for Bihar, infrastructure particularly power, roads, and irrigation is being put in place.

Special status to Odisha

1946. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of States which have been accorded special status as per their demands;
- (b) the details of finance and other assistance provided to these States in the financial year 2012-13;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the Odisha's demand for according special category State; and
- (d) if so, whether Government proposes to accord special status to Odisha keeping in view its district conditions and provide special economic assistance to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) At present 11 States namely, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand are Special Category States. National Development Council is the sole body to accord special category status to a State based on an integrated consideration of set of criteria.

- (b) The details of financial assistance on the Plan side provided to these States in 2012-13 are given in the Statement.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) The matter is under examination in Planning Commission.