

Based on the demand by the State on 24th May, 2013, the Ministry has recently released Rs. 748.91 crore to the State Government of Odisha towards Programme Funds on 05th Aug, 2013. Administrative Funds of Rs. 10 crore has been released to the State on 22nd Aug., 2013.

Pension for senior citizens and disabled persons

1815. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government is seriously considering to increase the pension given to the old age persons physically and mentally handicapped persons to Rs. 1000/- minimum and to give pension by Aadhar Card bank payment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) and (b) Ministry had constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission to prepare a proposal for a Comprehensive National Social Assistance Programme. The Task Force has considered various issues, demands and suggestions relating to pension schemes under NSAP, received from various quarters including those on enhancement of pensions, current targeting criteria, age criteria, inclusion criteria, and indexing pensions to inflation. The Task Force has submitted its report to this Ministry.

With effect from 1st July, 2013, the pension schemes under NSAP has been brought under the ambit of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), wherein the money is directly transferred into the bank account of beneficiaries. Many of the bank accounts are linked to Aadhaar Numbers. 121 Districts in 26 States/Union Territories were selected under the Phase I and Phase II for implementation of the DBT. Now it has been decided to roll out DBT all over the country.

Construction of roads in villages in Uttarakhand

1816. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages Government proposes to connect by Jeepable road with main motorable road in Bironkhal Block in Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand;