

Common programme for Himalayan States

2414. SHRI MUKUT MITHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to have a common programme or a common planning process for the Himalayan States, if so the names of States and the progress so far;

(b) if not, whether such an idea was mooted at for discussion, and if so, the reason it got rejected; and

(c) whether Government has proposed to constitute any panel committee, task force etc. to look into the matter of common planning for Himalayan States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) to (c) Sir, Planning Commission has constituted a Committee to Study Development in Hill States arising from Management of Forest Lands with special focus on Creation of Infrastructure, Livelihood and Human Development. The scope of the study was confined to Eleven Himalayan States viz J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and seven NE States. The Committee has submitted its report on 11th November, 2013 to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, making certain recommendations pertaining to process issues of environmental clearances and fiscal compensation to these States.

Expansion of flagship infrastructure projects

2415. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to expand flagship infrastructure project schemes in the country in a big way for development of minorities, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this project is proposed to be developed district-wise especially in areas where there is a maximum of Muslim/tribal population in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such a project is also proposed to be developed for other minority population in the country, if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Minority Affairs has been implementing a Multi-Sectoral Development Project since 2008-09 with the objective of improving the socio-