

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-

economic infrastructure and providing basic amenities for improving the quality of life of the people and reducing imbalances in the 90 identified minority concentration districts. The projects undertaken relates to the provision of better infrastructure for education, skill development, health, sanitation, pucca housing, roads, drinking water, besides schemes for creating income generating opportunities.

To sharpen the focus of the programmes in the Twelfth Five Year Plan the project has been extended to cover total of 196 districts. The guidelines of MsDP have been revised in 2013 to extend the projects at the block level instead of districts. It is proposed to cover a total of 710 Minority Concentrated Blocks (MCBs) which have been identified on the basis of existence of minimum of 25% minority population for the implementation of the program. In addition in the Twelfth Five Year Plan a total of 66 minority concentration town have been identified for the implementation of the program. However, in these towns, the program will intervene only for the promotion of education, including skill and vocational education for empowering the minority in towns/cities. Recently, by a Cabinet Decision on 20th January, 2014 Jain community has also been included in the list of minorities besides Muslims, Parsis, Sikhs, Christians and Buddhists.

Financial assistance to registrar for enrolment for UID

2416. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government was providing financial assistance to Registrars @ Rs. 50 per successful UID enrolment till date;

(b) whether Government has reduced the financial assistance to Registrars to Rs. 40 *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2012 if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government has received representation from Gujarat State Government to sustain the Rs. 50 per successful UID enrolment; and

(d) whether Government of India is going to review its decisions regarding the financial assistance to Registrars; and if not the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) provides financial assistance to registrars for every Aadhaar Generated, based on approvals