

(b) if so, the details thereof and the implementation status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) The Government has sanctioned three projects in Karnataka under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) with the objective of empowering women in agriculture by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity in agriculture based livelihoods. These projects are being implemented through Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) benefiting around 19,000 women farmers. So far, an amount of ₹ 6.93 crore has been released under these projects.

Special schemes for rural development in Himalayan Region

†3507. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the special schemes for rural development in the Himalayan region like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and North-Western States; and

(b) whether Government is considering to provide additional amount for development of villages in the States of the region and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development, *inter alia*, is implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) in rural areas of the country, including the Himalayan region like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and North-Western States, as a part of the overall planning process through State Governments and UT Administrations. The objective of these programmes is to bring about overall improvement in the quality of life in rural areas through employment generation, development of rural infrastructure and provision of other basic amenities. Special dispensation has been made under these programmes for hilly States, desert areas and tribal areas including Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

Beneficiaries under IGNOAPS and IGWPS in Odisha

3508. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry would consider to increase the number of beneficiaries

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) by 3 lakhs for Odisha during 2014-15.

(b) whether the Ministry would make necessary provision of funds in the Union Budget; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (c) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) are the components of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). Schemes under NSAP are for the households living Below Poverty Line (BPL) on fulfilling the eligibility criteria prescribed by the Government of India. Criteria for allocation of funds is based on the estimated number of beneficiaries of each State and UT. The number of beneficiaries is calculated taking into account the 2001 Census figures and poverty ratios of 2004-05 given by the Planning Commission. Therefore, the estimated number of beneficiaries is not linked to the State BPL lists. This procedure is uniformly followed for all States and UTs. States /UTs have also been advised that in case the actual number of beneficiaries under each scheme of NSAP are in excess of the estimate /cap of the State, the States /UTs may meet the additional expenditure from their own resources. The scheme-wise details of number of beneficiaries for the State of Odisha are as follows:

Name of scheme	Cap	Coverage (As reported 2013-14)
IGNOAPS	14,62,960	14,18,631
IGNWPS	5,28,570	5,28,570

Women beneficiaries under MGNREGA

3509. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of women beneficiaries under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) during 2013;

(b) the statistics regarding the availability of work-site facilities including creche and drinking water to the beneficiaries; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the availability of these facilities for the beneficiaries?