

Scheme for promoting self-employment

†1318. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an announcement has been made to start a scheme called 'Setu' for promoting the opportunities of employment and self-employment in the country; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any target has been fixed for implementation of this scheme; and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir, Hon'ble Union Finance Minister in his Budget speech for 2015-16 has announced establishment of a mechanism known as SETU (Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation).

As per this announcement, SETU will be a Techno-Financial, Incubation and Facilitation Programme to support all aspects of start-up businesses, and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology-driven areas. An amount of ₹1000 crore has been set aside initially in NITI Aayog for this purpose.

(b) In pursuance to this, on 21st April 2015 NITI Aayog has constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Tarun Khanna for working out the detailed contours of the Scheme. The Expert Committee will submit its report within 3 months.

Special Category status to Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh

1319. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received requests/representations or resolutions passed by State Legislatures from the State Governments of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh regarding treating these States as Special Category States and restore them the Special Category Status;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for taking away this status from these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) No requests/representations or resolutions passed by

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State Legislatures from the State Governments of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh have been received regarding treating these States as Special Category States or restore them the Special Category Status. Special Category Status for plan assistance has been granted in the past by the National Development Council (NDC) to some States that are characterized by a number of features necessitating special consideration. At present 11 States have been conferred with Special Category Status. These are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand.

There is no proposal to change the status of these Special Category States. The recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission has taken into account the total requirements of the States under Plan and Non-Plan. In view of this, Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Special Central Assistance (untied) (SCA) and Special Plan Assistance (tied to projects) (SPA) have not been provided in the Union Budget 2015-16 (Plan). Further, certain Schemes have been discontinued from Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) while changes have been proposed in the sharing pattern between the Centre and the States for certain CSS. The preferential assistance for Special Category States would be applicable for assistance for EAPs which flows as 90% grant.

Allocation to Social Sector Schemes

1320. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the total allocations for social sector schemes during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether there has been slow down in the spending pattern of these outlays earmarked for schemes during the above period, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to expedite the utilization of funds to achieve set targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Social Sector Schemes are implemented by different Ministries viz. Food and Public Distribution, Health and Family Welfare, Human Resource Development, Labour and Employment, Minority Affairs, Rural Development, Social Justice and Empowerment, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Tribal Affairs, Urban Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation and Women and Child Development. Among these schemes, important schemes having larger outlays are termed as flagship schemes. Allocation and expenditure in these flagship schemes