

As per available information, budget allotted and the funds released for the placement linked skill development program (DDU-GKY) is given below:

Year	Budget allotted (in ₹ crore)	Funds released (in ₹ crore)
2013-14	650.00	568.97
2014-15	571.49	568.63
2015-16	587.84	579.63

(d) DDU-GKY at present covers 568 districts in 21 States.

SARAS fairs

†132. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'SARAS Fairs' organised during the last five years in which various rural organization/people got an opportunity to display/sell their products;

(b) the details of funds spent by the Ministry on these fairs during that period and the amount received against the stalls provided to participants for taking part in these fairs; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the rural organizations/people have to bear high costs to take part in these 'fairs' and have to incur loss due to meagre sale of products?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development, under the scheme of National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), has taken various initiatives to promote marketing of rural products produced by rural BPL swarozgaries and SARAS fair is one of them. These fairs are the main outlets for the BPL families to display and sell their products on the one hand and also learn the nuances of urban marketing principles on the other hand. This Ministry releases central assistance up to ₹ 40 lakh for metro cities and ₹ 35 lakh for non-metro cities for organising regional SARAS fairs, to the concerned State Government. The stalls are provided to participants for taking part in these fairs, free of cost. During the last five years, 100 'SARAS Fairs' have been organised across the country for which funds to the extent of ₹ 42.08 crore was utilized.

(c) No instances have been brought to the notice of this Ministry where the rural organizations/people had to bear high costs to take part in these 'fairs' and had to incur loss due to meagre sale of products.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.