

country where economic growth rate is near zero. However, the Planning Commission has identified Backward District under the Scheme of "Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana". The Backward District Initiative covers 100 backward district and 32 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism. The identifications of backward districts has been made on the basis of an index of backwardness comprising three parameters with equal weightage to each, namely, (i) value of output per agricultural worker; (ii) agriculture wage rate; and (iii) percentage of SC/ST population of the districts. The number of zone-wise backward districts is as under:

Zone	No. of Districts
North	33
South	16
East	26
West	12
Central	13
TOTAL	100

(c) Special Central assistance @ Rs. 15 crore per year will be provided for 3 years for approved Schemes to these districts to address the problem of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and to fill critical gaps in social infrastructure. The ongoing Schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development will be implemented as such including wage-employment, self employment, rural, housing, rural roads, area development programmes, rural drinking water supply and sanitation etc., in these districts and also in the districts which are mostly flood prone.

Construction of toilets for ladies in villages

1577. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Development Ministry has a scheme for construction of toilets for ladies in the villages of the country;

(b) what is the cost of these toilets and whether has any standard toilet for use by ladies in rural areas been developed; and

(c) what is the time-frame for providing this toilet facility in rural areas all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is provision of constructing community toilet blocks for women in villages in the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects.

(b) The normative unit cost of such complexes is Rs. 2.00 lakh. There is no standard design developed for such toilet complexes primarily because TSC implementing agencies at the district and village level have been given the flexibility to choose their own design options as per local requirement.

(c) In order to extend sanitation coverage throughout the country, Government of India is promoting construction of individual household latrines (IHL) as well as community toilet complexes under a demand driven and people centred programme, namely the Total Sanitation Campaign. TSC projects are under implementation in 398 districts of the country. These projects are demand driven and are sanctioned on receipt of requests from State Governments. It is intended to sanction implementation of TSC projects in all districts of the country by end of the Xth Plan, subject to receipt of necessary proposals from the States.

Drinking water project of Andhra Pradesh awaiting clearance

1578. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project for drinking water supply costing Rs. 58.97 crores and supported by the Government of Netherlands, of the Government of Andhra Pradesh is pending before the Ministry.

(b) if so, when such a proposal for clearance has been received in the Ministry; and

(c) the action that has been taken on the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) (a) to (b) State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a project proposal "Community owned and Managed Drinking Water Supply and Environment Project-AP-III