

requested *vide* his letter dated the 8th July, 2003 to provide subsidy to the State on the lines of North-Eastern States for helicopter services being run by the State Government to save the people of Lahol-Spiti, Kinnor and Pangi-Bharmor tehsils of Chamba districts from natural calamity and dreadful diseases who lose contact with rest of the country due to heavy snowfall for almost six months;

(b) if so, the details of any action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, by when the decision would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The D.O. letter dated 8th July, 2003 of CM, Himachal Pradesh referred in the Question has been received in the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) Response of the above D.O. letter on the subject has already been sent *vide* Planning Commission's D.O. letter No. PC(P)2/44/02/-HP/DCH/11/7486 dated August 13, 2003.

### Special package for Jharkhand

†1742. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in receipt of any proposal from the Chief Minister of Jharkhand regarding special package to the State;

(b) if so, the Government's response thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to send any special Central team for the assessment thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Allocation of funds by the Centre for the State Plan is made through existing programmes and schemes under the Five Year Plan.

(c) No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.