

(d) in view of the urgency and importance of the project, how soon will be the funds released to the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana seeks to provide all-weather connectivity to all Unconnected Habitations in the rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons, through good All-weather roads, by the end of Tenth Plan Period (2007). In respect of the Hill States (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal), Desert Areas and Tribal (Schedule-V) areas, the objective is to connect Habitations with a population of 250 persons and above. Repairs to existing roads are not permitted.

Budget allocations for PMGSY is made on year-to-year basis by Government. During 2004-05, an allocation of Rs. 2468 crore has been made.

(b) An additional cess of Rs. 0.50 per litre was imposed on High Speed Diesel in the Budget of 2003-04. However, no amount from this additional cess has been received so far for the purpose.

(c) and (d) Funds are released to the States depending on the progress made and expenditure incurred out of the earlier released funds.

#### **CMs Meet on Rural Development**

867. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister at the recently held Chief Ministers Meet on rural development in Delhi expressed the desire to decentralise spending by transferring funds to district and local Government like "China Rural Bizltub's",

(b) whether Prime Minister wanted Panchayati Raj to be used as "the medium to transfer rural India into 700 million opportunities" and "CMs to become champions of decentralization"

(c) if so, the State-wise reaction of CMs in this regard; and

(d) by when, final decision of Central Government is expected to be taken in this matter and the draft legislation to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) At the recently

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held Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his inaugural address mentioned that we need to learn from the Chinese model of rural business hubs that add value to agricultural produce within the rural area.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Chief Ministers gave a detailed account of the working of the decentralized system and the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in their respective States.

(d) The Panchayati Raj Institutions constitute the core of decentralized developmental planning and its implementation. Under most of the Rural Development Programmes a crucial role to PRIs in the Programme implementation has been assigned. The funds for the major rural development programmes are directly provided to the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishads (ZPs)/Implementing Agencies.

#### **Expenditure under Indira Awaas Yojana**

‡868. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the amount spent under the Indira Awaas Yojana during the year 2003-04;

(b) whether Government have been able to achieve the annual target of construction of small homes during the said financial year; and

(c) the State-wise number of homeless people living below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) State-wise details of amount spent under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) during the year 2003-2004 is at Statement-I (See below). Against the target of 1484554, as per provisional information available as on date, around 1334245 houses have been constructed under the Scheme. The percentage of target achieved have been 89.88 during the year 2003-04.

(c) The details of homelessness is not available with the Ministry. However, as per Census 2001 estimates, the details of State-wise housing shortage in rural areas is at Statement-I I.

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‡ Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.