

Revision of guidelines pertaining to development of NER

446. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has revised the guidelines for projects concerning the development of States of North Eastern Region (NER); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the revised guidelines would add transparency and ensure timely implementation and completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved a central sector scheme of North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) with 100% central funding restructuring the block grant of 90:10 under the scheme of Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). While framing the guidelines for NESIDS, the provisions of guidelines of NLCPR, as revised in 2016, were retained which, *inter alia*, includes the constitution of State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the States; delegation of power of vetting of projects to the states through SLEC; strengthening of project portal for online submission of documents; emphasizing completion of ongoing projects by releasing more funds against them; putting a cap on value of retention of new project; provisioning of release of only token amount of ₹ 10 lakh at the time of sanction of the project with balance to be released on receipt of award of work; and reducing the number of installments for release of funds from three to two. This resulted in faster completion of projects and reduction in amount of pending utilization certificates from ₹ 1158.95 crore as on 01-04-2016 to ₹ 247.94 crore as on 31-12-2018, besides decrease in time taken for vetting of DPRs and awarding of work.

Monitoring of schemes for children

447. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the various programmes/schemes of the Ministry for the betterment, safety and upliftment of poor children, girl child and orphan children;

(b) whether these programmes/schemes, which are being run by various organisations are properly monitored/inspected by any special cell of the Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details of report generated by that special cell or monitoring committee during the last three years, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various laws and schemes viz. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) Act and Child Protection Services (CPS) scheme under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) for the protection and welfare of Children from various abuses and ensuring their best interest. The Child Protection services, under the Umbrella ICDS provide for the safety net of statutory support Services along with Institutional and Non-institutional facilities to ensure best interest of child. Inspection and monitoring of the Institutions is required to be done by States/UTs as prescribed under the JJ Act, 2015 and rules there under.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) is a flagship programme of the Government to address the declining Child Sex Ratio and related issues of disempowerment of women on a life-cycle continuum. The specific objectives of the scheme include preventing gender biased sex selective elimination; ensuring survival and protection of the girl child and ensuring education and participation of the girl child. The District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners (DCs) lead and coordinate action of all departments for implementation of BBBP at the District level.

Decline in number of workers going to Saudi Arabia

448. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to sharp increase in the number of deaths of Indians in Gulf countries, there is a sharp decline in number of workers going to Saudi Arabia by 47 per cent in 2016 when compared to 2015 and 29 per cent to UAE;

(b) whether the Ministry has tried to carry out any investigation or study to find out the causes of deaths; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the Ministry is planning to discuss the issue with those countries at diplomatic and political level so as to protect Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) As per information received from our Missions in UAE and Saudi Arabia, the figures for population of Indian expatriates