

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Funds released
2000-2001	3.88
2001-2002	6.57
2002-2003	6.58
TOTAL:	17.03

However, under the Scheme of Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records, the State Government of Orissa has not submitted any proposal for release of funds on 50:50 sharing basis for the last three years.

(b) Question does not arise.

Conference of State Ministers of Rural Development Panchayati Raj and Public Works

161. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day conference of the state Ministers of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Public Works was held recently in New Delhi to take stock of the various development programmes being implemented by this Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion took place and conclusion arrived at;

(c) whether some state Ministers had complained of indifferent attitude of the Nationalised banks in sanctioning of the loans to the applicants particularly under the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SJGSY); and

(d) if so, the details and what remedial action have been taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir, a two day Conference of the State Ministers of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj

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and Public Works Department was held on 27-28 January, 2002, in New Delhi, to review the progress under various development programmes being implemented by the Ministry.

(b) The Summary of the discussions are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Yes Sir, some state Ministers had highlighted the pendency of applications for sanction of loans and time-lag between sanction and disbursement of loans under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development has taken up the matter with the Reserve Bank of India and requested the Banking Division, Ministry of Finance to convene a meeting of representatives of Banks, Reserve Bank of India, NABARD as well as the officials of this Ministry to address the issues raised during the Conference for more effective implementation of the Scheme.

Statement

Summary of the discussions of the Conference of State Ministers of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Public Works was held on 27-28 January 2003, in New Delhi.

The conference was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and was also addressed by the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Major Centrally Sponsored Programmes being funded by the Ministry of Rural Development and the issues related to the implementation of the 73 Constitution Amendment Act were discussed in the technical sessions of the Conference. The summary of the issues discussed is as follows:

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY): The State Ministers/representatives briefly touched upon the progress made in the implementation of PMGSY. Other issues raised during the Conference included *inter alia*, those relating to increase in the Allocation, Restoration of contingency funds to Programme Implementing Units (PIUs), and extending the execution period.

Panchayati Raj: Status of Election, Devolution of Powers to PRIs and constitution of DPCs was discussed. States are at different level of achievement in this regard. The need to empower and strengthen PRIs to

make them effective institutions of local self-governance was reiterated in the Conference. States generally expressed their commitment to achieve these.

Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY): While the States were satisfied with the release of the instalments and reported various levels of utilization of the cash component, it was felt that timely release of quality foodgrains from FCI godowns, and lifting and utilization of foodgrains for employment generation needed improvement

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY): Some state Ministers had highlighted the pendency of applications for sanction of loan, the time-lag between sanction of loan and disbursement and high rate of rejects of applications, under the Swarnajayanti yojana.

Watershed Development Programmes: Hon'te Prime Minister launched a new initiative of the Department of Land Resources namely 'Haryali' which aims at empowering of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Planning, execution and managing the watershed activities.

Rural Housing: The States highlighted the necessity of increasing per unit assistance under IAY. The problem of delay in release of 2nd instalment of funds was discussed. States were informed about deficiencies in proposals and clarifications that were needed for processing them so that second instalment could be released.

Monitoring and Vigilance Regarding the reconstitution of Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at district level (with MP, LS, as Chairperson), some of the state representatives felt that this contradicts the spirit of decentralization process and Panchayati Raj Institutions would be denied their due rights. A request was, therefore made for reviewing the reconstitution of V and M Committees. Some States also desired that they may be allowed to nominate some members of these Committees.

Involvement of Panchayats in water management

162. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently started Water Management plans for villages involving Panchayats; and