

74. Naval Dental Centre, INHS Asvini, Colaba, BOMBAY.

Diversion of Funds

1350. SHRI SANT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to divert part of employment generation schemes funds to the watershed development programme to step up the resource availability for this activity;

(b) if so, the estimated amount involved in the programme in next financial year; and

(c) whether this strategy is likely to help in the uplifting of the socio-economic conditions of the rural poor and its employment generation potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL): (a) According to the new guidelines for watershed development issued by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, 50% funds of each of employment generation schemes of Intensive Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (IJRY) and the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) have been earmarked for taking up watershed development projects from the year 1995-96.

(b) The Central allocation under IJRY and EAS during 1995-96 is Rs. 702.56 crores and Rs. 1570 crores respectively, 50% of which works out to Rs. 351.28 crores and Rs. 785 crores respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

1351. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any enquiry regarding alleged misappropriation of large funds under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the details of the enquiry made in this matter;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to plug loopholes in the monitoring system to check misuse of funds in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is being implemented by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishads (ZPs) at the district level and by the Village Panchayats at the village level. A few cases of misappropriation of funds, have, however, come to the notice of the Government of India. Involvement of Panchayats in the implementation of the Yojana in the country, has brought about the much desired transparency and the number of complaints regarding the misuse of JRY funds are relatively few. Nonetheless when complaints are received in the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, they are referred to the concerned State Governments for appropriate inquiry and remedial action. Some of the State Governments have

suspended the officers/sarpanchs found responsible for misuse of JRY funds. Criminal cases have also been initiated against the officers/sarpanchs who have committed irregularities in the utilisation of JRY funds. No effort is spared to book the guilty.

The system of checks and balances is built into the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) so that the misappropriation of funds does not take place. The JRY resources released to the village panchayats are kept in an exclusive and separate saving banks or post office account which can be operated jointly by the Sarpanch and another persons nominated by Panchayat. Every drawal from the bank is required to be authorised in the meeting of the village panchayat. The accounts of the DRDAs/ZPs/Gram Panchayats (GPs) are also subject to regular audit. Meeting of the village panchayats are to be held every month on a fixed date and time in which every member of village community can raise any issue regarding implementation of JRY. Instructions have been issued to the village panchayats is to appoint a Vigilance Committee for each village under its jurisdiction to oversee, supervise and monitor the implementation of works under the Yojana. The State Governments have also drawn up a programme of inspection of these works by senior officers, from the State/District/Block level who are required to inspect the works in the villages/districts at a frequency decided by the State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC). This is supplemented by the visits of Central Government officers from the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment who have been assigned specific areas for such visits and follow up. The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment have also introduced a system of Area Officers during the year 1993-94 with a view to effectively monitoring the various programmes of Rural Development including JRY. Under this scheme, senior officers at the level of Deputy Secretary and above have been allocated one or two State(s) each. They are required to visit the State(s) allotted to them and give a feedback on the implementation of rural development programmes including JRY. To give greater attention to the States with higher proportion of rural poor and unemployed, the Area Officers Scheme has further been strengthened w.e.f. 1.1.1994 by including officers from the Department of Programme Implementation, Department of Wastelands Development and the Planning Commission also in the various teams of Area Officers.

[Translation]

Health Care Schemes

1352. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme pertaining to the public Health Department of Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the Details thereof; and.

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF