

- (vi) Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations.
- (vii) Streamline the Public Distribution System with focus upon the poor.

6. Within these broad objectives agreed upon between the Centre and the State, the transfer of the Central share of funds be done with flexibilities given to the states in implementation, suiting local conditions and emphasis on involvement of people through elected Panchayats and municipalities.

7. Centrally Sponsored Schemes have proliferated in various Ministries. These schemes reflect the initiatives these Ministries have taken to focus on certain areas of national concern. Some are big while some schemes have small provision. There is considerable centralisation, rigidity, delay and inequity in the administration of these schemes. In order to reflect appropriately the national priorities and to concentrate our efforts and resources on these priorities, the Conference suggested the streamlining of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

8. All Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to the Seven Basic Minimum Services mentioned in Para 5 above, should be continued. Within these Basic Minimum Services, an all out effort should be made to secure (a) 100% coverage in provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas, (b) 100% coverage of primary health service facilities in rural and urban areas and (c) universalisation of primary education, within the next 2-3 years. However, States which have achieved satisfactory results in these areas can choose for their priority attention other components of these seven Basic Minimum Services suited to their requirements for full coverage in the next 2-3 years.

9. In the determination of allocations for these basic Minimum Services by the States and the Centre, the special needs of the States below national average may be taken into consideration.

10. In addition, the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the Area of Urban and rural poverty alleviation and employment, development of desert & drought-prone areas, nutrition, and for the welfare of SCs/STs/minorities and disabled persons of our society, should be continued as such and States be given greater involvement, freedom and flexibility in the implementation of these programmes.

11. Provisions available under Centrally Sponsored Schemes other than those mentioned in Para 8 and Para 10 above, should be pooled and basic State entitlement ratios should be worked out on the basis of allocations made to the States in 1995-96. The States should be free to select for implementation, from the list of these Centrally Sponsored Schemes circulated by the Centre, suiting their needs for using their annual entitlement.

12. The States annual entitlement under all Centrally sponsored Schemes should be increased by 15-20% every year.

13. The Department of Programme Implementation in the Union Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation would work out the details of these revisions in the guidelines and procedures in consultation with the relevant Central Ministries and a group of Chief Ministers. This exercise may be complete within one month, so that the revisions and changes would be available during this year itself.

14. The Conference recommended regular Central and State joint monitoring and reviews of these programmes.

15. The Conference endorsed that the funds allocated for these basic Minimum Needs in the State and the Central plan should not be diverted and these funds should be made available in two instalments to the implementing agencies in consultation with State Governments. The first instalment would automatically be released to the implementing agencies in the first week of April and the Second instalment will be conditional to at least 50% expenditure of available funds and upon furnishing utilisation details/certificates.

[Translation]

Killing of Bihari Labourers

2326. SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the killing of the Bihari labourers in the terrorist attacks of Jammu and Kashmir militants; and

(b) if so, the number of labourers killed therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). 11 labourers hailing from district Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, and not from Bihar were killed on the night of 6-7 July, 1996 by the militants at Batkote near Handwara in Kupwara district of Jammu & Kashmir.

[English]

Housing Problem in Delhi

2327. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Capital facing acute housing shortage" appearing in the "Statesman" dated June 9, 1996;