

Nicobar Administration following which the latter is working out the modalities of setting up such a service.

Interest Rate on Loan to IDSMT

4303. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the interest rate on loan given under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce the rate of interest on loan given to small and medium towns covered under the IDSMT Scheme.

(b) Question does not arise.

Blocks under EAS

4304. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of existing Blocks State-wise;

(b) the number of Blocks covered under Employment Assurance Scheme during 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, state-wise;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to cover all the Blocks under Employment Assurance Scheme in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The number of existing rural blocks State-wise, blocks covered under EAS during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) All the rural Blocks of the country are covered under EAS with effect from 1st April, 1997.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Total no. of blocks	Blocks covered under EAS Year		
			1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	330	185	280	330

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	56	56	56	56
3.	Assam	218	142	218	218
4.	Bihar	727	447	577	727
5.	Goa	11	0	4	11
6.	Gujarat	218	150	181	218
7.	Haryana	111	45	77	111
8.	Himachal Pradesh	73	19	44	73
9.	J & K	119	96	119	119
10.	Karnataka	175	133	162	175
11.	Kerala	150	19	79	150
12.	Madhya Pradesh	459	340	394	459
13.	Maharashtra	298	211	247	298
14.	Manipur	31	22	31	31
15.	Meghalaya	32	32	32	32
16.	Mizoram	20	20	20	20
17.	Nagaland	52	52	52	52
18.	Orissa	314	250	290	314
19.	Punjab	138	0	49	138
20.	Rajasthan	237	174	204	237
21.	Sikkim	4	4	4	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	385	198	282	385
23.	Tripura	27	27	27	27
24.	Uttar Pradesh	901	362	611	901
25.	West Bengal	341	213	270	341
26.	A & N Islands	5	1	2	5
27.	D & N Haveli	1	1	1	1
28.	Daman & Diu	2	1	2	2
29.	Lakshadweep	7	7	7	7
30.	Pondicherry	6	0	3	6
Total		5448	3207	4325	5448

Construction of Fly-over at Kuppam

4305. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :