

Responsibilities to Panchayats

4338. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States those have enacted the Act under the Article 243G to entrust the powers, authority and responsibilities to Panchayats so far;

(b) whether the State have been asked to prepare and implement the schemes for economic development and social justice including subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule; and

(c) if so, the funds provided by the States to the Panchayats as envisaged in the Constitution for the over all development of Panchayats at all level ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Article 243G of the Constitution required the State Governments to enact legislation to entrust powers, authority and responsibilities to Panchayats, Accordingly, all the States, except Arunachal Pradesh, have passed State Legislation.

(b) It is a Constitutional mandate that the States may entrust the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice to the Panchayats and also implementation of schemes in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

(c) Funds are provided by the States to Panchayats on the basis of recommendations of the State Finance Commission. This is a continuing process. State Finance Commissions of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have submitted their reports to the respective State Governments. The States of Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal have accepted most of the recommendations of the SFCs. Gujarat, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have received Interim Reports of the SFC on which States/UTs have yet to take action. SFCs of Goa, Orissa and Sikkim have yet to submit their reports.

Development of Wasteland

4339. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total grant given by the Government for the development of wasteland in Kutch, Saurashtra and North Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the assistance provided by the World Bank in this regard so far;

(c) whether any provision is made during the year 1998-99; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The Department of Wastelands Development, Govt. of India have released the total grant of Rs. 1433.84 lakhs under Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) Scheme for the development of wastelands in Surendranagar (Project-II), Kutch (Project-I), Panchmahal, Amreli, Jamnagar, Mehsana, Rajkot, Gandhinagar, Banaskantha, Kheda and Junagarh of Gujarat State during the last three years.

(b) The Department of Wastelands Development is not implementing any project assisted by the World Bank.

(c) and (d) Subsequent release of funds to the ongoing projects are made by the Department of Wastelands Development, Government of India on receipt of Quarterly Progress Report, Utilisation Certificate, Audited Statement of Accounts and satisfactory evaluation report subject to 50% utilisation of funds by the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) of the concerned district. No specific pre allocation is made.

Godown Sites for LPG Distributors

4340. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of godown-sites earmarked/identified for allotment of LPG distributors in Delhi, Location-wise;

(b) the reasons for not allotting them so far;

(c) whether any preference is given to SCs/STs, handicapped and freedom fighter categories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) DDA has reported that besides 233 existing sites, 8 new sites have been identified as follows :