

[English]

Allocation of Funds for SCs/STs under Rural Development Schemes

802. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentage of allocation of funds for SCs/STs under the Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-plan (for areas predominantly tribal) under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP);

(b) whether the Government are aware that the rural population of North-East States especially Meghalaya are adversely affected by the Apex Court's recent order on timber felling with no alternative source of livelihood available;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose some projects under this scheme to Foreign Donor Agencies for financial aid; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Under JRY 22.5% of the funds is earmarked for SCs/STs at all level of Panchayati Raj Institutions. There is no specific allocation of funds for SCs/STs under the existing guidelines for implementation of EAS. Under the Special Component Plan for SCs/STs, it is stipulated that 50% of the total coverage under IRDP should be of SC/ST families.

(b) to (d) Relevant information is being collected from North-East States and will be laid on the Table of House.

Financial Crisis in PSUs

803. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Undertakings (PSUs) under his Ministry;

(b) whether some of these PSUs are facing severe financial crisis and running at loss;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for their loss; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to make them economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) There are 10 Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of Deptt. of Steel.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sponge Iron India Limited, Bharat Refractories Limited, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Hindustan Steelworks Construction Co. Ltd., Indian Iron & Steel Co. and Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Co. (a subsidiary of SAIL) have been incurring losses.

The detail of losses occurred by these PSUs for the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Name of PSUs	Losses incurred		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Sponge Iron India Limited	—	1.30	3.36
Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.	114.64	132.57	224.85
Bharat Refractories Ltd.	6.72	13.20	20.97
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	204.27	245.94	176.73
Indian Iron & Steel Co.	49.0	213.0	395.0
Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Co.	37.0	102.0	84.0

(d) The reasons for incurring losses are increase in output costs, sluggish market conditions, excess man power, excessive man power costs due to recent pay revision, high transportation costs, obsolete machinery, greater competition from imports and enhancement in supplies in domestic market.

(e) Steps being taken for their revival include reduction in cost by improving the techno-economic parameters, demand oriented production, improving product quality, increasing sales through aggressive and customer oriented marketing and formulation. Revival packages/turn around strategies for long term viability of