

Programme (IRDP), the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), and the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS).

MPs are members of the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Governing Body which provides guidance and direction to the DRDAs in the implementation of rural development programmes. All schemes/projects are approved by the Governing Body of the DRDA. MPs participating in the meetings of the DRDA are apprised in regard to criteria of selection of beneficiaries and projects, as laid down in the schematic guidelines and their views in this regard are discussed.

The State Governments have been advised to constitute District and Block Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees, with MPs representing their respective districts, on them. These Committees supervise, exercise vigilance, and monitor the implementation of all programmes of the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment.

The MPs are also members of the District and Block Level EAS Committees which supervise the implementation of the EAS and may suggest, from time to time, to the State Government, such steps as, in their opinion, are necessary for more effective implementation of the scheme.

Fund for Backward Areas

2222. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for allotment of special fund for the development of backward areas of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether Eastern U.P. and Bundelkhand have also been enlisted in the concerned list;

(c) whether the people's representatives of Eastern U.P. and Bundelkhand have been continuously demanding for special plan and fund for the area; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in regard to these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission have not identified any area as backward per se.

However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated to various States, including Uttar Pradesh for Special Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan etc.

(c) No, Sir, there is no such request with Planning Commission.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Agricultural Research

2223. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of our agricultural research findings have remained confined to laboratories and technical journals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to make the agricultural research findings more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country to benefit the farmers. The activities include vocational skill-based training to farmers, in-service training of extension personnel to update their knowledge, on-farm testing and front-line demonstrations of various agricultural technologies.

In addition, 42 Centres for Technology Assessment & Refinement through Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) are also being implemented for effective transfer of newly developed technologies on location-specific basis.

(c) During 1997-98, KVKs have organised:

- (i) 11,365 training programmes benefiting 2.57 lakhs farmers.
- (ii) 1,095 training courses benefiting 22,838 extension functionaries.