

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds for Rural Development

3157. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the allocated amount for the rural development work during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the total amount earlier allocated for the financial year 1998-99;

(c) the amount utilised by the end of December, 1998 in this regard;

(d) the amount to be reduced from the total amount allocated for that year; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (e) Based on the performance of some of the implementing agencies and looking into the accumulation of the unspent amount with these agencies, it has been decided to reduce the allocation from Rs. 9900 crores to 9400 crores, thereby reducing the total allocation by 500 crores during the current financial year, for rural development programmes. An amount of Rs. 8285.80 crores has been spent by implementing agencies upto December, 1998.

[English]

Anti-Poverty Programmes

3158. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee to restructure various anti-poverty programmes;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) whether the Government have also formulated any plan to scrap various anti-poverty programme like TRYSEM, DWCRA, SITRA and GKY and merge them into a Group based IRDP scheme; 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) In February 1997, the Planning Commission set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.R. Hashim, Member, Planning Commission to review and rationalise Centrally Sponsored Schemes for poverty alleviation and employment generation. The committee had submitted its report in the month of April, 1997.

(c) and (d) Based on the recommendations of the Hashim Committee proposal, for Restructuring of Self Employment Programme are under active consideration. It is proposed to have a single self-employment programme which will seek to provide a holistic approach including aspects of training, credit, infrastructure and marketing. The programme would focus on activity clusters and will lay a greater emphasis on group activities.

Food Corporation of India

3159. SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of the existing framework, the Management of FCI is carrying out the unloading jobs in ports far away from the Eastern Region, thereby leading to excessive transportation charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a loan taken from the World Bank for construction of a Godown in the Eastern Region was spent elsewhere;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to contemplate to reduce the number of Depots and District Offices and to wind up the J.M.P.O. Regional Office in the Eastern Region;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to make the alternative arrangement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Imports of wheat came to close by November, 98 and FCI is not handling any imported foodgrains at present. However, for the