

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:553
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2003
GUIDELINES OF IDSMT SCHEME
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the implementation and progress of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme has not been very satisfactory in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to revise the guidelines in regard thereto;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKR)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 553 FOR 29.4.2003 REGARDING GUIDELINES OF IDSMT SCHEME.

(a): No, Sir. Since inception of this Scheme, i.e. from 1979-80 upto 2002-03, a total of 1340 towns were covered under the Scheme and central assistance amounting to Rs.60576.60 lakhs was released against which the expenditure reported was Rs.75882.34 lakhs.

(b) to (f): Based on the feedback received from the State Governments and the periodic reviews held by the Ministry, Government is considering revision of the existing Guidelines of IDSMT Scheme. Some of the main features of the proposal under consideration include:

- i) Coverage of infrastructural projects with higher cost outlays, keeping in view the increased infrastructural needs of the local bodies.
- ii) Coverage of towns has been proposed to be widened to cover towns with population upto 10 lakhs from the existing ceiling of 5 lakhs population.
- iii) In addition to other infrastructural components it is being proposed to include water supply and sanitation projects under the scheme on which a minimum of 40% of scheme money should be used.
- iv) While the scheme is being enlarged to cover towns with population upto 10 lakhs, focus on smaller towns will be emphasized by making available about 50% of the total amount available each year under the scheme to towns with less than one lakh population.
- v) In order to ensure speedier utilization of funds, release of central share is proposed to be further streamlined.
- vi) Delegation of powers to State Level Sanctioning Committees in the States to make minor changes within the approved projects is being suggested.
- vii) Special window for project preparation, training and capacity building is being proposed by providing 1.5% of the total project cost for the purpose.

Draft Guidelines were sent to the State Governments and Union Territories for comments. The salient features of the proposed Guidelines were also discussed with the representatives of the States during a review meeting held on 14.5.2002.