

- (iii) Switchover from present front-end subsidy to back end subsidy.
- (iv) Measures for better recovery of IRDP loan.
- (v) Realistic repayment schedules and increasing the security free limits.
- (vi) Need to meet working capital requirement.
- (vii) Stress on better planning and development of infrastructure.
- (viii) Increase in the level of per family assistance by providing larger credit and higher subsidy.
- (ix) Encouragement of group activities.
- (x) Modification of traditional target oriented approach.

(d) Instructions to implement the recommendations have been issued by Government of India and Reserve Bank of India respectively to all the concerned.

[Translation]

Improvement and Reorganisation of Administrative set-up

1615. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the measures contemplated by the Government to improve and reorganise its administrative set up;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a reforms commission/committee to look into the existing lacunae in administrative set up and suggest remedial measures; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) The Government has taken several measures from time to time to improve and reorganise its administrative set-up to promote administrative efficiency. A number of specialised bodies have been set-up from time to time to suggest appropriate reforms in administration. Some of the important measures taken by the Government are the following :

- Steps for improving procedures and methods for recruitment, training, development, promotion and transfer of Government employees;
- Steps under the programme of Responsive Administration for simplification of procedures delegation of authority, enforcement of

accountability and prompt and sympathetic redressal of public grievances;

- Strengthening of vigilance machinery and launching of a three-pronged strategy comprising preventive vigilance, surveillance and detection and different punitive action for talking corrupt practices in public administration.

(b) and (c). At present, there is no such proposal before the Government.

[English]

Clearance to Project

1616. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited of the news-item captioned "Inefficiency costs Centre a whopping Rs.17,000 Cr." appearing in 'The Financial Express', New Delhi dated May 3, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the positive measures being taken to avoid delays in the clearance of the Central mega projects resulting in massive time and cost overrun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes Sir. The amount of Rs.17000 crores mentioned in the news item refers to the sum of difference between the approved cost and the anticipated cost (as on 29.2.96) of mega and major projects in the Central sector. This cannot be entirely attributed to 'inefficiency'.

(b) The external factors outside the control of the project authorities such as exchange variations Price escalation, change in duties and levies etc. also contribute significantly to the cost overrun beside the change of scope and delays.

(c) and (d). Govt. is very much concerned with the time any cost overrun of projects. Details of steps taken by Govt. to streamline for preparation of the original estimates and implementation of projects is enclosed in statement.

STATEMENT

Steps taken by the Government to Streamline for preparing the original estimates and implementation of projects

- (i) Two-Stage project approval to ensure adequate preparation, environmental and

other clearances and infrastructure planning at stage-I before a project is finally approved for implementation at stage-II.

- (ii) Intensive monitoring of projects at various levels. This enables the monitoring agencies to identify constraints and help the management in taking remedial measures.
- (iii) In-depth critical review of the progress by the project authorities and administrative Ministries.
- (iv) Setting up of Task Force/Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving land acquisition and other problems.
- (v) Close follow up by the Department of Programme Implementation, concerned administrative Ministries and project authorities with the State Government, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.
- (vi) Inter-ministerial coordination and interation.
- (vii) Emphasis on preparation of realistic project implementation plan.
- (viii) Review by the Committee of Secretaries of the specific projects facing constraints.

[Translation]

Shortage of Houses

1617. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted or is proposed to be conducted with regard to the shortage of houses in the rural areas;

(b) whether it has been ascertained blockwise as to how many additional dwelling units are required in the backward and poor areas of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As per the estimates, there is a housing shortage of 14.5 million houses in rural areas. Out of this, 14.5 million houses, 10.31 million houses would need upgradation and 4.19 million houses would need to be built. A programme for the construction/upgradation of these houses will be phased in the

following manner:

Year	House to be	
	Built	Upgraded
	(In lakhs)	
1996-97	10.5	25.8
1997-98	10.5	25.8
1998-99	10.5	25.8
1999-2000	10.4	25.7
Total	41.9	103.1

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Backlog of SC/ST

1618. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of SC/ST persons provided employment in Central services during the last five years;

(b) whether any backlog of posts reserved for them remain unfilled;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the backlog is expected to be cleared; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) The information is not centrally maintained.

(b) and (c). Under the 5th Special Recruitment Drive for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, As on 01.04.95, 17,228 backlog vacancies were identified for being filled up. Of the vacancies assessed under the Drive, according to reports received upto 30.06.96, 8,879 Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates have since been recruited.

(d) and (e). The Unfilled reserve vacancies were reported to be mainly due to non-availability of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates with requisite specialised skills or technical qualifications. Government have since launched the Sixth Special Recruitment Drive in 1996 for filling up backlog vacancies, as on 01.07.1996.

Report of Watch Asia

1619. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the report