

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:615
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2004
FUNDS UNDER ANNAPURNA SCHEME
Chander Kumar Prof. ;Shandil Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fund allocated by the Union Government under Annapurna Scheme remains unspent by various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same, State-wise;
- (c) the criteria for allocation of funds and guidelines for utilization of funds;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make any changes in guidelines/criteria;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper utilisation;
- (g) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from States for distribution of foodgrains under Annapurna Scheme;
- (h) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (i) the status of proposals received from the States, as on date?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA)

(a) & (b) : After a review of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes by the Planning Commission, in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development, the Annapurna and the National Social Assistance Programme(NSAP) have been transferred to the State Plan from the year, 2002-03. Now the state-wise allocation is approved by the Planning Commission, and funds are released by the Ministry of Finance/Ministry of Home Affairs as Additional Central Assistance(ACA) to the States/UTs on monthly basis. In accordance with the National Common Minimum Programme(NCMP) objectives, the original allocation of Rs.679.87 crore for the financial year 2004-05 under the NSAP and Annapurna Scheme has been enhanced by Rs.510.00 crores. The States/UTs-wise revised allocation of Rs.1189.87 crore duly approved by the Planning Commission is given in the Annexure.

(c) The State-wise allocation has been worked out on the basis of the Numerical Ceilings and Qualifying Financial Entitlement for each State determined on the basis of parameters of State population, poverty ratio and proportion of 65+ age group in total population and age specific mortality, since August, 1995.

The ACA provided to the States/UTs under the Annapurna and NSAP could be utilised by the States/UTs on Welfare Schemes of Old Age Pension, Family Benefit or free foodgrains to the aged by taking up one or two or all of the three or in any other combination, in accordance with their own priorities and needs.

(d) to (f) : The current guidelines have been framed with an objective to provide the requisite flexibility to the States/UTs in the choice and the implementation of the Schemes.

(g) to (i): The information is being collected from the Department of Food & Public Distribution and will be laid on the Table of the House.