GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1648
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004
WORLD BANK AID FOR DISTRICT POVERTY ALLEVIATION SCHEMES
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank provides assistance for `District Poverty Alleviation` schemes in the country;

(b) if so, the details of districts in each State covered under the scheme;

(c) the criteria laid down for identifying such districts;

(d) the requests received from each State for inclusion of more districts from their States to be covered under the scheme; and

(e) the details of assistance provided by World Bank so far, State -wise?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (e) Presently 5 District Poverty Alleviation Projects are being implemented : Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project (IDA Credit US$ 111 million), Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project (IDA Credit US$ 150 million), Chhattisgarh District Rural Poverty Project (IDA Credit US$ 112.56 million), Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project (IDA Credit US$ 110.1 million) and Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives Project (IDA Credit US$ 100.5 million). These schemes cover all districts in Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, 14 districts in Madhya Pradesh and 7 districts in Rajasthan.

(c) Poverty and Human Development indicators are the main criteria for identifying districts under the projects while keeping in view the preference of the State Governments.

(d) The number of Districts chosen in each State depend on the negotiated loan amounts and a joint assessment by the State government, the Government of India and the World Bank, of the required quantum of assistance per District. Government of India has not supported demands for adding on more Districts within an approved loan amount since this would mean that all Districts would, pro rata, get less. Such lesser amounts per District may not be enough to meet the critical minimum development objectives.