

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4511
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014
DEVELOPMENT OF HIMALAYAN STATES
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government provides any special assistance/financial assistance to Himalayan States for development in the region;
- (b) if so, the details of such funds allocated/released/spent during each of the last three years and the current year, State and scheme-wise;
- (c) whether the pace of development in these States has been slow inspite of these schemes/special assistance, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to examine developmental issues of Hill States including infrastructure and livelihood issues;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with recommendations made by the said committee and response of the Government thereon; and
- (f) the other proposals under consideration of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b): The eleven Himalayan States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim have been given Special category status for the purpose plan assistance from the Central Government. The Central Assistance releases to these States during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-I

(c): The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate of the States depends on several factors including rate of savings and investments in the States, growth in productivity, business climate, human development, state of infrastructure and State Government efforts through transfer of resources by way of various schemes. The GSDP growth rate (at constant price 2004-05) of the Himalayan States viz-a-viz to other States during last three years is at Annexure-II.

(d) to (f): Planning Commission had constituted a committee to study development in Hill States arising from management of forest land with special focus on creation of infrastructure, livelihood and human development. The scope of the study was confined to eleven Himalayan States viz. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. The Committee has submitted its report on 11th November, 2013 to the Planning Commission making certain recommendations pertaining to purpose issues of environmental clearances and fiscal compensation to these States. The report of the committee was discussed in Internal Planning Committee (IPC) meeting held on 12-02-2014. In the said meeting IPC broadly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee. The report required wider consultation with the Ministries/ Departments and concerning State Governments. Therefore the report was circulated to State Governments and Ministries.