

Title: Regarding status of implementation of recommendations in the 2nd Report of Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH):
Sir, I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations in the Second Report of Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in pursuance of the Direction 73 A of the Directions by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated the 1st September, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (dealing with Ministry of Tribal Affairs) examined the demands for grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2004-2005 and presented their Second Report in this regard on the 18th August, 2004 in the Lok Sabha. The report contained 15 recommendations, out of which 6 replies of the Government have been accepted by the Committee. They relate to reduction of allocation for the Ministry, evaluation of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP), effective implementation of Village Grain Bank Scheme, monitoring of Post-Matric Scholarships, revision of National Overseas Scholarship Scheme, monitoring of NGO scheme.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri P.R.Kyndiah, you may please lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Sir, with your permission, I am laying the rest of the Statement on the Table of the House.

Department of Drinking Water Supply is the nodal Department in the Ministry of Rural Development for providing scientific, technical and financial assistance to the States in drinking water and sanitation Sectors in the rural areas. The Department is presently implementing two Centrally sponsored programmes viz., Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP).

As brought out above out of 31 recommendations made by the Committee, the Government has accepted 19 recommendations. These recommendations primarily deal with higher allocation for rural water supply, optimum utilization of allocation made for water and sanitation sector, slippage of habitations, under achievement in terms of physical target and financial expenditure, requesting corporate sector to come forward in the field of drinking water supply in the rural areas conservation of water resources, accepting sea water for drinking water and other purposes, conducting fresh survey in North Eastern States, coverage of rural schools with sanitation facility incentive in the field of rural sanitation etc.

The Committee desired not to pursue three recommendations in view of Government replies. The three recommendations deal with relaxed norm under ARWSP coverage of all the aspects of PM's three programmes under ARWSP and survey regarding quality affected habitations.

There are 8 recommendations on which the Committee has not accepted the replies of the Government. These recommendations mainly concern the mismatch between physical and financial achievement under ARWSP, physical performance

of ARWSP being not up to the mark in some States, relaxed norm for supply of drinking water in rural areas, slippage of FC and PC habitation into NC habitation, gap between release and expenditure reported by State Governments in respect of

* This part of the Statement was laid on the Table of the House (Placed in Library, See No. LT - 2119/2005)

PM's three programmes, replacement of ARWSP with Swajaldhara and priority to drinking water to schools in rural areas.

There is one recommendation on which the Committee awaits the final reply. It is regarding inbuilt mechanism in the monitoring system to know the position about slippage of target at regular interval.*
