

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2672
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LINE
KUMUDINI PATNAIK

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Union Government have any proposal to provide special dispensation for alleviating persons below the poverty line in Orissa since the percentage of population below the poverty line is the highest in the country.
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether is it a fact that per capita allocation under plan in Orissa is the lowest in the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to assist the State Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): In addition to funding under various schemes for alleviation of rural poverty such as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and for alleviation of urban poverty such as Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) Additional Central Assistance has been provided to the Government of Orissa every year from 1998-99 for the KBK districts for certain crucial sectors such as afforestation, emergency feeding, mobile health units, hostels for schools for girls, etc.

(b): In 1998-99, an additionality of Rs. 46.00 crore was released, in 1999-2000, an additional amount of Rs. 57.60 crore was released while in the current year, Rs. 40.35 crore has been allocated. Further, in order to give a fillip to irrigation, the guidelines for the Accelerated Irrigated Benefits Programme (AIBP) have been revised in favour of the drought prone KBK districts. Although, normally only major/ medium irrigation projects in an advanced stage of construction are considered for inclusion under the programme, now irrigation projects benefiting KBK districts in initial stages of construction are eligible for support. Further, although minor irrigation projects are not eligible for assistance, minor surface irrigation projects of the KBK districts can now be funded under the programme. Further, the Central Loan Assistance is being made available in the ratio of 3:1 (Centre: State) under AIBP compared to the normal ratio of 2:1 (Centre : State) for the non-Special Category States.

(c): No, Sir. The per capita plan outlay of Orissa in the last three years has been Rs. 713 (1997-98), Rs. 855 (1998-99) and Rs. 902 (1999-2000) which is higher than States such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

(d): In view of (c) above, does not arise.