

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1083
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
FUNDS FOR AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Standing Committee on Agriculture in its Report No.6 of 1999-2000 has stated that funds released to States are not reaching the State Agriculture Departments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the unspent amount lying with the States and the reasons for not releasing the funds to the State Agriculture Departments; and
- (d) the steps taken to strengthen the monitoring mechanism at the Centre to ensure that funds released to States reach the State Agriculture Departments within 15 days of their release?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): The Committee in its Report No.6 of 1999-2000 that has expressed concern in many important on-going schemes particularly in crops and horticulture sector, plan funds have not been utilized in full as some States have unspent balances from the previous years, thereby resulting in less release of funds to them. The Committee have also been informed that some State Agriculture Departments are not receiving funds from their respective State Finance Departments in time. The Committee are of the view that this is a perennial problem and some concrete measures are required to be taken in this regard. The Committee recommend that the Department should strengthen their monitoring mechanism and ensure that funds released to States, reach the State Agriculture Department within 15 days of their release. The names of States who lag behind in implementation of schemes should be invariably given in performance budgets and the States who have performed well be rewarded by higher allocation.

(c): An amount of Rs.282.51 crores was lying as unspent balance as on 1.4.2002 with the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

The central assistance is released to the State Government through Inter Government Adjustment Advice issued by the Pay & Accounts Office, through the Central Accounts Unit of Reserve Bank of India at Nagpur. The Agriculture Department and other concerned departments in the States obtain approval of the Competent Authority of the State Government for sanction of their Scheme and release of funds in accordance with the procedure laid down by them. The reasons for not releasing the fund expeditiously include, among other things, procedural delays and financial problems of the states.

(d): In order to ensure expeditious release of funds to the State Agriculture Department, a special cell has been created in the Office of CCA at Krishi Bhawan for the receipt of Sanction Orders regarding release of central assistance to the States/UTs. The Pay and Accounts Office are sending Inter Government Adjustment Advice to the RBI through Speed Post to avoid delay in release of funds. Monitoring of the Implementation of the Schemes is also done regularly by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.