GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Million Shallow Tube Wells Scheme (MSTs) has been launched in Bihar under which the farmers will be given loan by the banks;

(b) if so, the number of applications received by the banks in the State of Bihar till 2002 and the number of applications against which loan has been disbursed;

(c) whether the targets are not being achieved; and

(d) if so, the action taken/is likely to be taken against non-cooperation banks to make the said scheme successful?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Million Shallow Tubewells Programme (MSTP) is being implemented in Bihar by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in association with commercial banks and regional rural banks with Central Government assistance.

(b) NABARD has reported that as per information available as on 31 March, 2003 with the participating banks, 54815 number of loan applications have been received out of which loans have been sanctioned to 39614 applicants.

(c) and (d) The implementation of the scheme had been siow during the first year of implementation in 2001-2002. However, with the series of steps taken for implementing the scheme the achievements were over 82% of the target as at the end of 2002-2003. The progress of the scheme is regularly reviewed by NABARD at various levels. NABARD has also taken several steps for streamlining the process of implementation of the scheme like launching of awareness programme to sensitise all stakeholders, organizing of workshops, seminars in all the districts of the States, giving wide publicity in local newspapers, simplifying the loan sanction and disbursement procedures, cash disbursement to farmers to purchase assets of their choice, etc.