

roads in the State of Uttar Pradesh, particularly in rural areas, during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) to (d) Government are presently engaged in the process of drawing up a National Rural Roads Programme (NRRP) for construction of roads in the rural areas of the country, including in Uttar Pradesh, for which requisite Master Plans / Projects are to be formulated..

While funds have not yet been sanctioned, an allocation of Rs. 358.76 crore is tentatively being earmarked for the State of Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2000-2001.

#### **SCs / STs living below poverty line**

5629. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of persons belonging to the SCs / STs are living below poverty line even now;

(b) if so, indicate the percentage of persons belonging to the SCs / STs who are living below poverty line as of now as compared to the total population of the country living below poverty line; and

(c) the action initiated by Government to bring the persons belonging to the SCs / STs above poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) As per the latest estimates of poverty, obtained by the Planning Commission, 48.11% of the Scheduled Caste and 51.94% of the Scheduled Tribe population lived below the poverty line in rural areas in 1993-94. In urban areas, the percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population living below the poverty line has been estimated at 49.48% and 41.14% respectively in that year. Among the entire population the percentage of people living below the poverty line is estimated at 37.27% in rural areas and 32.36% in urban areas in 1993-94.

(c) Various poverty alleviation programmes are being implemented under Tribal Sub-Plan and Special Component Plan strategy. In addition various Central and Centrally sponsored programmes are also being implemented by the States and UTs, besides State sector programme to improve the standard of living of SCs / STs living below poverty line.