

The detailed terms of reference of the Second National Commission on Labour are as follows:—

- (i) to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector; and
- (ii) to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sectors;

In developing the frame work for its recommendations the Commission will take into account the following:—

- (i) follow up implications of the recommendations made by the Commission set up in May, 1998 for review of various administrative laws governing industry;
- (ii) the emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes, requiring response in terms of change in methods, timings and conditions of work in industry, trade and services, globalisation of economy, liberalisation of trade and industry and emphasis on international competitiveness, and the need for bringing the existing laws in tune with the future labour market needs and demands;
- (iii) the minimum level of labour protection and welfare measures and the basic institutional framework for ensuring the same, in a manner which is conducive a flexible labour market and adjustments necessary for furthering technological change and economic growth; and
- (iv) improving the effectiveness of measures relating to social security, occupational health and safety, minimum wages and linkages of wages with productivity and in particular the safeguards and facilities required for women and handicapped persons in employment.

Families below poverty line in Maharashtra

*65. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of families living in Maharashtra State below the poverty line during 1997, 1998 and 1999 (upto November, 1999), year-wise, and what are the limits of poverty line;

(b) the effect of various schemes started at different points for the uplift of people living below the poverty line; and

(c) the result of each scheme introduced, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME

IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS. (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The planning Commission estimates percentage of persons living below the poverty line from quinquennial consumer expenditure survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The last such survey was conducted in 1993-94. The next quinquennial survey on consumer expenditure is being conducted during the year 1999-2000. As such, the estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line in 1997, 1998 and 1999 are not available. As per the latest estimates of percentage of persons living below the poverty line, based on the consumer expenditure survey data of 50th Round of NSSO, 36.86 per cent of the population in Maharashtra lived below the poverty line in 1993-94. The poverty line in 1993-94 is expressed as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 194.94 in rural areas and Rs. 328.56 in urban areas.

(b) The increase in income of the people living below the poverty line occur from the joint impact of general growth process and direct income generation of the poor arising from various anti-poverty programmes introduced from time to time by the Government for their upliftment. Since the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85), the Government has been implementing employment and asset generation schemes for the upliftment of the people living below the poverty line. These schemes are mainly of two types, self-employment and wage employment. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) has been the major self-employment programme and it has been in operation in all the blocks of the country since 1980. The wage employment programme initially was National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) during the Sixth Plan period. In the Seventh Plan, another wage employment programme under the name Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was introduced. Then in 1989, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was launched by merging the National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme, and it became the main wage-employment programme. In addition, several programmes to help the poor were also in operation until March, 1999. These programmes are: Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA).

From 1st April, 1999, these programmes, excepting EAS and JRY have been restructured into single self-employment programme called the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the primary objectives of focussed approach to poverty alleviation, capitalising advantages of group lending, and overcoming the problems associated with multiplicity of programmes. Also, from 1st April, 1999, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been restructured as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with

the primary objective of creation of demand driven community village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objective is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families.

From 1.12.1997, Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is the main poverty alleviation programme in the urban areas. The SJSRY, which has subsumed all the earlier three urban poverty alleviation programmes, viz., Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP), seeks to provide gainful employment to unemployed or underemployed urban and educated up to IX standard for setting up self employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The implementation of SJSRY is relying on suitable community structures on the UBSP pattern and delivery of inputs under this programme is through the medium of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and such community structure.

It is not possible to isolate the impact of each of these factors on the income generation of the poor, and hence on the percentage of people living below the poverty line. However, as a result of the joint impact of these two factors, there has been a continuous reduction in the percentage of people living below the poverty line in Maharashtra since 1977-78 as can be seen from the table below.

Percentage of Poor in Total Population in Maharashtra

1977-78	55.88%
1983	43.44%
1987-88	40.41%
1993-94	36.86%

(c) As the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure are not available at district level, and as the Planning Commission estimates the poverty on the basis of the quinquennial consumer expenditure survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), it is not possible to assess the impact of the various schemes on the incidence of poverty at district level.

Hunger Problem

*66. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent study conducted by the United Nations Population Fund has revealed that despite huge increase in food production since independence, one-third of India's population is hungry;