

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Families Below Poverty Line in Himachal Pradesh

*73. SHRI ANIL SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of families living below the poverty line during the past five years, year-wise and district-wise in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the effect of various schemes started at different points to uplift the people living below the poverty line in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) what is the result the schemes have yielded;

(d) if none, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures Government have undertaken to improve their living?

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 the percentage of persons living below poverty line at national and state level from the 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 during the past five years 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, 28.44 per cent of the population in Himachal Pradesh lived below the poverty line in 1993-94. Since the National Sample Survey (NSS) 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 estimate the incidence of poverty at district level.

(b) to (e) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

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),

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

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 reduction in the percentage of people living below the poverty line in Himachal Pradesh from 32.4% in 1977-78 to 28.4% in 1993-94.

Incentives to IT industry

*74. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of incentives offered for the IT industry;
- (b) whether banks are treating advance to IT projects as priority sector advance; and
- (c) whether Government will consider to have a separate institution for promotion of IT industry?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The details of incentives offered for the IT industry are given in the Statement. (See below)

(b) Yes, Sir. Loans to the software industry having credit limit upto Rs. 1 crore from the banking sector are eligible for inclusion under the priority sector.

(c) The Government of India has already set up Ministry of Information Technology for promotion of this industry.

Statement

The details of Incentives to IT Sector are as under:—

1. A Special Advance Licensing Scheme for export of Electronics products has been notified vide DGFT Public Notice No. 41(RE-98)/1997-2002 dated 16.9.98. The imports under the scheme shall precede export and the licences under the scheme shall be issued with the positive value addition. The Designated Officers of the Ministry of Information Technology(MIT) have been entrusted with the task of verifying the relevance/usability of inputs in the export product as well as the quantity required.