

participation of people at all levels;

(vii) Empowerment of women and socially disadvantaged groups such as Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Other Backward Classes and Minorities as agents of socio-economic change and development;

(viii) Promoting and developing people's participatory institutions like Panchayati Raj institutions, cooperatives and self-help groups;

(ix) Strengthening efforts to build self-reliance.

The above objectives, which seek to achieve growth with equity, need to be seen in the context of four important dimensions of State Policy. These are; (a) quality of life of the citizens; (b) generation of productive employment; (c) regional balance; and (d) self-reliance.

(c) and (d) A sustained and long lasting solution to the problem of poverty depends on the creation of adequate employment opportunities through a broad based programme of development and economic growth. This is of particular importance since the labour time unemployment rate for male workers has gone up in a significant manner. The very poor are heavily dependent on the slender work opportunities available to them in terms of labour days, and if this comes down, the consequences are very severe. A National employment Assurance Plan has also been introduced.

At a conference of Chief Ministers held in July, 1996, it was decided to implement a programme for the achievement of total coverage of seven Basic Minimum Services in a time bound manner. It was agreed to raise the outlays of these programmes by 15% in spite of stringent fiscal situation. The Ninth Five Year Plan will continue this commitment in real terms through each of the five years. While the objectives of

this programme have been decided through the process of mutual consultation, the States have been given full opportunity to decide on the phasing of the target for each specific sector. The achievement of these targets will be jointly monitored by the State and the Central Governments. This approach is an ideal blend of national commitments with local initiatives.

Clearance to Sanitation and Drinking Water Projects of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab

2003. SHRI LACHHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sanitation and drinking water projects of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab pending with Government for clearance and since when;

(b) the reasons for their pendency; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No sanitation and drinking water project of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab is pending with the Planning Commission for clearance.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश और असम में अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जन-जातियों के व्यक्तियों को रोजगार

2004. श्री शिव चरण सिंह: क्या योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश और असम में अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित जन-जातियों के व्यक्तियों को रोजगार उपलब्ध करने हेतु केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा प्रारंभ की गई परियोजनाओं, योजनाओं इत्यादि का ब्यौरा क्या है;