

(d) and (e) The projects referred to were posed under "10% lump sum provision for North Eastern States including Sikkim", and not under JNNURM. The project at Mokokchung was received. CPWD pointed out deficiencies which were later corrected and the project therefore was ultimately approved. In the case of the project at Sewak deficiencies have been pointed out by CPWD. However, it is still under process as a response is yet to be received from the State Government.

Reduction of urban poverty

*93. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of reduction of urban poverty has been far lower than that of rural poverty;

(b) if so, the comparative details thereof during the last four years and the reasons therefor, especially in coastal and agency areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps Government would like to take in future in this regard especially to remove the poverty among SCs/STs by uplifting them in the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Planning Commission brings out estimates of rural and urban poverty from time to time based on survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). According to an estimate released by the Planning Commission based on the 61st Round of NSSO Survey, the percentage of urban poor in the country decreased by 6.7 points between 1993-94 and 2004-05 *i.e.* from 32.4 per cent in 1993-94 to 25.7 percent in 2004-05. During the same period, the percentage of rural poor went down by 9 points, *i.e.* from 37.3 per cent in 1993-94 to 28.3 per cent in 2004-05.

(b) The latest comparative data on rural and urban poverty released by the Planning Commission pertain to the year 2004-05. It reveals that the number of urban poor in India increased from 763.37 million in 1993-94 to 807.96 in 2004-05. Over the same period, the number of rural poor decreased from 2440.31 million to 2209.24 million.

In the case of Andhra Pradesh, the number of urban poor decreased from 74.47 lakhs in 1993-94 to 61.40 lakhs in 2004-05. Over the same period the number of rural poor decreased from 79.47 lakhs to 64.70 lakhs. The figures released by the Planning Commission for Andhra Pradesh pertain to the State as a whole and do not include break-ups for coastal and agency areas.

The reasons for high incidence of urban poverty include several factors such as migration of rural poor to cities and towns in search of jobs; lack of security of tenure, affordable housing and basic amenities to a large segment of the urban population; high cost of living in cities and towns, especially for housing, health care, education and transportation; low wage and lack of job security in the urban informal sector which engages a vast segment of the urban poor population; and lack of appropriate skills with the urban poor to meet the demands of changing urban economies etc.

(c) The Government is addressing the issues of urban poverty, including those relating to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, through the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission aims at improving city-wide infrastructure and providing basic services to the urban poor, including security of land tenure, affordable housing, water, sanitation, education, health and social security. Under the components of Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme of JNNURM, beneficiary contribution for housing is restricted to 10% for SC and ST beneficiaries as against 12% for general categories.

The Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) aims at providing gainful employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor by (i) encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by those who have not studied beyond Ninth standard, (ii) providing wage employment for construction of socially and economically useful public assets and (iii) promoting the development of skills through training. The scheme stipulates that the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries must be at least to the extent of the proportion of their strength respectively in the local population.

JNNURM and SJSRY are being implemented as part of the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012).

American technology in atomic energy

†*94.SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given an assurance to America with regard to awarding contract of establishing an atomic energy plant of 10,000 MW;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that American technology is inferior to that of Russia and France;

(d) whether it is also a fact that not a single new reactor has been manufactured in America during the last two or three decades; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) and (b) India has conveyed to the United States of America her intent to cooperate with US nuclear energy firms in setting up nuclear power plants on the basis of mutually acceptable technical and commercial terms and conditions that enable a viable tariff regime for electricity generated.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Five reactors have commenced commercial operation in last 20 years.

(e) The capacity addition in the USA is seen in the context of increasing plant load factor from 54% in the year 1980 to 91.8% in the year 2008 and addition of 3810 MWe from nuclear power uprates. These have resulted maintaining nuclear share between 18 - 20% in spite of low nuclear power capacity addition.

Code of conduct for interaction with MPs

†*95.SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI:

SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.