

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):  
(a) and (b) As per National Sample Survey Organisation data on 'Indebtedness of Farmer Households' (2003), 51.4% of farmer households do not access credit, either from institutional or non-institutional sources. 27.30% of total farm households are indebted to formal sources and 21.3% to informal sources, including moneylenders.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, in order to address the issue that in some regions of Maharashtra, a large number of farmers had taken loans from private moneylenders and the loan waiver scheme did not cover them, an announcement has been made in the Budget 2009-10 to set up a task force to examine the matter in detail and suggest the future course of action.

#### **Excess staff in Ministries**

†3393. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Commission for Expenditure Reforms<sup>†</sup> constituted under the Chairmanship of K.P. Geeta Krishan has said that 20,000 posts in 36 Ministries are useless;

(b) whether the Commission has recommended to retrench one lakh posts in attached and subordinate offices of these Ministries; and

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to take any action accordingly after contemplating recommendations made by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):  
(a) to (c) This Ministry set up the 'Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC)' under the Chairmanship of Shri K.P. Geethakrishnan on 28.2.2000. The ERC had presented 10 reports in all covering 36 Ministries/Departments/Organizations. Among other recommendations made relating to staff strength, the ERC recommended abolishing around 42,000 posts. Against this, as per information available, around 26,581 posts have been abolished.

#### **Work studies conducted by the SIU**

3394. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) is conducting work studies in various Departments/Ministries of Government and some other autonomous bodies;

(b) if so, the Departments/Ministries where such studies are going on;

(c) whether objections have been received in any of the Departments over the process and method used by SIU to assess the actual work load;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof along with action taken by SIU on these objections;

(e) the details of steps Government proposes to take to bring SIU in consonance with the current requirements of Departments/Ministries; and

(f) if the answer to part (e) above is in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) yes, Sir.

(b) SIU is at present conducting studies in Rajya Sabha Secretariat and in Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO), New Delhi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Review of the staffing of Government establishments with a view to securing economy is one of the functions of the Department of Expenditure in Ministry of Finance under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. The SIU in the Department of Expenditure, as a professional body, undertakes review of staffing strength in various types of Ministries/Departments, as per the laid down parameters, methods and procedures.

#### **Annual expenditure for rural welfare**

3395. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual expenditure on poor Indians as percentage of GDP on rural welfare during the last three Plans;

(b) whether it is a fact that this percentage has decreased from 0.51 per cent in the Tenth Plan (2002-07) to 0.42 per cent in Eleventh Plan (2007-09 and onwards); and

(c) the details of Government plans to rectify this and increase percentage to at least 1 per cent from 2010 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) No information is available on annual expenditure on poor Indians as percentage of GDP on rural welfare during the last three Plans. However, year-wise details of GDP at current price, expenditure (centre and states) on rural development and expenditure on rural development as percentage of GDP during last three Five Year Plans, starting from Eighth Five Year Plan are given in table below.

(b) and (c) It may be seen that expenditure on rural development as percentage of GDP was 0.95 per cent in the Eighth Plan, 0.80 per cent in Ninth Plan and 0.98 per cent in the Tenth Plan. In the first year of Eleventh Plan (2007-08) for which data is available, the expenditure on rural development has been already 1.02 per cent.