

where 1.40 crore senior citizens, including 44 lakh women” would be forced to work, mostly as casual labour, for their subsistence; and

(b) if so, whether the collective wisdom of our planners would do perspective planning so that after 62 years of independence, our senior citizens are not forced to work for their subsistence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
(a) and (b) The Technical Note on Employment prepared for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) by the Planning Commission has made projections for labour force and its participation rates. The note projects the number of 60+ persons that will remain in labour force at the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan as 1.43 crore including 33.49 lakh women. These projections are based on the 61st round of National Sample Survey. This Technical Note provided the statistical and analytical base for the estimates and projections of Labour Force and Employment for the Eleventh Five Year Plan Document. The above projections are not classified by levels of income or consumption expenditure.

The Government of India has initiated a number of programmes to provide social security to senior citizens like Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) etc.

Lord Ganesha's picture on beer bottle

†*296. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a US beer company has depicted Lord Ganesha on one of its brand bottles;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) the action so far taken by Government in respect of this outrageous act; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in order to check acts hurting the religious sentiments of Hindus all over the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) Government is aware that a beer company in the US — Lost Coast Brewery, Eureka, California has labeled one of its beer brands with the portrait of Lord Ganesha.

(b) to (d) As is Government's practice, the matter was taken up by our Mission in the US with the US Government and the company expressing outrage at the incident, and asking that the product be immediately withdrawn.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Status of BPL families

†*297. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has requested the Central Government to review the number of families which are to be accorded the status of BPL families under the guidelines of BPL Census-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Rural Development in association with the State Governments and UTs conducts the BPL Census to identify the rural households living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) which could be assisted under its various programmes. The actual exercise relating to the identification of poor in rural areas for BPL Census 2002 was related to the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 of the Planning Commission inasmuch as that the total number of BPL families identified by the States should not exceed the Poverty Estimates of the Planning Commission. Subsequently, to address some of the concerns of the States, the option was given to the States for deciding the total number of rural BPL households equal to the Poverty Estimates of 1999-2000 of Planning Commission or the Adjusted Share as worked out by the Planning Commission, whichever is higher. In addition to this, the States were also given the flexibility of another 10% to account for the transient poor. This position continues. An Expert Group has been constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development to suggest a suitable methodology to conduct BPL Census for the Eleventh Five Year Plan period to identify the BPL households in the rural areas.

Implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes

*298. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Centrally sponsored schemes are implemented by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has devised a system to ensure that unless the first installment is utilized to achieve the target in time, further funds would not be released and that the right to implement be taken over by Central agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the stringent measures to ensure proper implementation of Central schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are implemented by States or their agencies, irrespective of their pattern of financing.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.