

(a) whether the Ministry is aware about tribal backlog in various Departments of Central Government and services of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) the action that are proposed by the Ministry to improve representations of Tribal employees in view of Constitutional reservations; and

(c) who is responsible for the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A special recruitment drive has been launched to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies.

(c) Some vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Tribes remain unfilled for the reasons like non-availability of suitable candidates, gap between arising of a vacancy and its filling up etc.

Drive against corruption

2946. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI in a nation-wide drive against corruption and alleged irregularities by public functionaries and also various recruitment boards has filed number of cases recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government to make CBI more effective and also to expand its organizational set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. CBI, in a nation-wide drive against corruption in June 2009, has registered 70 cases of corruption and alleged irregularities by public functionaries.

(c) A number of measures have already been taken by the Government to strengthen the CBI which *inter-alia*, include modernization and upgradation of infrastructure and capacity building of officers and staff of the CBI.

Poor, illiterate and malnourished people

2947. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has the largest number of poor, illiterate and malnourished people in the world and nearly 25 crore people go to bed hungry every night;

(b) whether it is not a sorry state-of-affairs despite the fact of our independence long back of over 60 years; and

(c) whether something concrete would be done to uplift these sectors and a time frame for it by giving top priority?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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

(a) As per the 'Global Economic Prospects-2009', published by the World Bank, India had about 455.8 million people living on less than US \$ 1.25 per day in the year 2005. As per the Census 2001, the numbers of illiterates in the country were around 304 million in the age group seven years and higher. As indicated in the Report of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), titled 'Perceived Adequacy of Food Consumption in Indian Households 2004-2005', the percentage of households not getting enough food every day was 0.4% for rural areas and 0.1% for urban areas respectively in the year 2004-05.

(b) The country has shown significant improvements with respect to poverty, illiteracy and hunger over time. The percentage of people living below poverty line declined from 54.9 per cent in 1973-74 to 27.5 per cent in 2004-05. Literacy rate improved from 18.3 per cent (for age group 5+) in 1951 to 64.8 per cent in 2001 (for age group 7+). Proportion of people not getting enough food every day declined from 2.4 percent in 1983 to 0.4 percent in 2004-05 in the rural areas and from 0.8 percent in 1983 to 0.1 percent in 2004-05 in the urban areas.

(c) The Eleventh Five year Plan (2007-12) envisages reduction in the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points. Similarly the Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at increasing the literacy rate for persons of age 7 years or more to 85% by 2011-12. The Government is implementing a number of poverty alleviation programmes such as: National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Mid-day Meal Scheme, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), etc. For improving literacy rate the Government is implementing the Sarva-shiksha Abhiyan and the Mid-day meal Scheme.

Number of poor people in country

‡2948. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to member of Planning Commission Shri Abhijit Sen the number of poor people in the country could be 80 per cent in villages and 64 per cent in cities;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that according to report of World Bank the number of poor people in India is about 45 crore and as per the report of the Committee nominated by the Rural Development Ministry it is 40 crore;

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.