

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Ministry is in the process of finalizing the methodology for identification of people living below the Poverty Line in rural areas of the country, taking in to account the suggestions/comments of States/UTs and Central Ministries and experts.

Dichotomy about BPL population

‡4287. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge difference between the reports of N.C. Saxena Committee constituted by his Ministry for the data of poors and Suresh Tendulkar Committee of Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to give any special financial package for poverty alleviation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Expert Groups headed by Dr. N.C. Saxena and Prof. S.D. Tendulkar were set up with different objectives. The Expert Group set up by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D Tendulkar to review the methodology for estimation of poverty which has redefined the poverty line, according to which, the poverty ratio in the country was 37.2 percent in 2004-05 as against the poverty ratio of 27.5 percent of the Planning Commission. Whereas the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena was set up to advise the Ministry of Rural Development on the methodology for conducting the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census for the 11th Five Year Plan for identification of households living Below Poverty Line (BPL).

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Payments under MNREGS

4288. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind delays in the payment to workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS);

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the timely payment to the workers under MNREGS;

(c) whether Government is considering to introduce biometric machines on the lines of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) for labourers to get their wages timely under MNREGS in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides for payment of wages to workers to be made within a period of 15 days. Further, payment is to be made through bank/post office accounts of the workers. Due to lack of bank/post office infrastructure in remote rural areas and also due to delay in measurement of work due to lack of technical staff with the implementing authorities, cases of delay in payment of wages have been reported in the Ministry.

(b) to (d) Instructions have been issued to the States for deputing adequate dedicated staff with the implementing authorities. Administrative expenses under the Act out of which the dedicated staff is paid their salaries have been enhanced from 4% to 6% from 1.4.2009. To cover the gaps in financial services and outreach and also to ensure greater transparency in wage disbursement, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards and biometrics have been initiated.

Implementation of PURA

‡4289. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme namely, Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) has been formulated to provide civic amenities in rural areas in the country on the line of urban areas;

(b) if so, the number of regions and locations thereof identified for the first phase of implementation of this scheme; and

(c) the percentage of financial partnership of the Central Government, State Government and private sectors respectively in the implementation of this scheme and the manner in which private sector would get its investment amount later on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) The Government has approved a central sector scheme namely 'Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA)'. The scheme proposes holistic and accelerated development of

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