

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken to ensure that the facility reaches those who are actually poor; and

(c) the target fixed and target achieved during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 in issuing BPL Cards?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government has the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of foodgrains to the States and UTs. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them and distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through fair price shops and supervision of the functioning of fair price shops rest with the State/UT Governments.

For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and UTs under TPDS, Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March, 2000 population estimates of the Registrar General of India or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes 2.43 crore AAY families. However, as reported upto March, 2008, March, 2009 and March, 2010, the State/UT Governments have issued 10.28 crore, 10.68 crore and 11.08 crore BPL ration cards respectively.

There have been reports of inclusion and exclusion errors in the issue of BPL ration cards. A Nine Point Action Plan for strengthening TPDS was evolved in 2006, which, *inter-alia*, includes continuous review of BPL/AAY lists and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards. Instructions have also been issued to all State/UT Governments to review the existing lists of BPL/AAY families and eliminate ineligible/bogus ration cards. As a result of these directions, since July, 2006 onwards, 23 State/UT Governments have reported detection and deletion of 173.83 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards.

Upgradation of polytechnic institutes in NER

*607 SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government has received any proposal from North-Eastern Region (NER) States for financial assistance for upgradation of polytechnic institutes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme of Sub-Mission on Polytechnics under Coordinated Action for Skill

Development, as many as seven (07) proposals have been received from North Eastern Region so far in the eleventh plan seeking financial assistance for upgradation of infrastructure facilities in existing polytechnics. The details of the proposals received are as follows:—

Sl. No.	State/UT	Name of Polytechnic
1	Sikkim	(1) Advanced Technical Training Centre, Bardang. (2) Centre for Computers and Communication Technology, South Sikkim, Namchi
2	Meghalaya	(3) Jowai Polytechnic, Ladthalaboth, Jowai (4) Tura Polytechnic Cherengre,
3	Nagaland	(5) Government Polytechnic, Kohima
4	Tripura	(6) Tripura Institute of Technology, Narsingarh (7) Women's Polytechnic, Hapania

Report of National Knowledge Commission

*608. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has accomplished its task with its final report submitted to the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, what has been done with its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) was constituted on 13 June, 2005, with a time-frame of three years, under the Planning Commission. Its term was extended upto 31st March, 2009. The NKC has submitted around 300 recommendations in 27 focus areas during its term, and implementation on a number of its recommendations is currently underway. Some of the major decisions taken which have emerged from the recommendations of the NKC are as follows:—

- (i) For expansion, redesign and quality enhancement of vocational education and training in the country, a three tier structure has been constituted under the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM).
- (ii) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, has been enacted.
- (iii) The need for the establishment of an overarching authority in higher education, based on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and the Committee to advise on the Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education under Prof. Yash Pal, has been expressed by Government as one of its priorities. A Task Force has