

#### **Privatization of passport issuing process**

1576. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether his Ministry has outsourced the passport issuing system to a private vendor who would also control the related software including the personal data of passport holders;
- (b) whether any other countries have privatized the passport issue system;
- (c) if so, whether there are any developed countries in that list; and
- (d) whether all security aspects have been examined while privatizing the passport issue apparatus in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR) : (a) No. The Ministry has embarked on a Mission-Mode Project titled "Passport Seva Project" with the approval of the Union Cabinet. The basic design involves outsourcing of front-end activities, not involving sovereign functions of the Government, to a service provider. M/s Tata Consultancy Services Limited (TCS) has been selected as the Service Provider for the Project. Strategic assets, including system and application software, and the personal data of passport holders will be under the control of the Government.

(b) and (c) As per the Information available, the United Kingdom has outsourced its passport issuance system to a large extent.

(d) Yes.

#### **Property rights to slum dwellers**

1577. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to direct State Governments to give property rights to slum dwellers; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such direction has been given to State Governments to give property rights to slum dwellers. However, the Government has announced a new scheme called Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) for the slum dwellers and the urban poor. This scheme aims at providing support to States that are willing to provide property rights to slum dwellers. The Government's effort would be to create Slum free India through the implementation of RAY.

#### **Livelihood to Urban Poor**

1578. SHRI PYRIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) details of schemes proposed to be undertaken to provide means of livelihood to the urban poor;

(b) whether such schemes have been / are being linked with slum rehabilitation projects to ensure easy repayment; and

(c) whether the skill sets and professional expertise of slum dwellers can be taken as the basis for employment / self-employment and loans arranged from financing institutions to enable generation of higher income and consequent capability for repayment?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The Centrally sponsored urban poverty alleviation scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), implemented since 1.12.1997, has been recently revamped by the Government, with effect from 1st April 2009. The revamped SJSRY has following components;

(i) Urban Self-Employment Programme (USEP) - targets individual urban poor for setting up of micro-enterprises,

(ii) Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP) - targets urban poor women self-help groups for setting up of group-enterprises and providing them assistance through a revolving fund for thrift & credit activities.

(iii) Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP)- targets urban poor for imparting quality training so as to enhance their employability for self-employment or better salaried employment.

(iv) Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP)- seeks to assist urban poor by utilizing their labour for the construction of socially and economically useful public assets, in towns having population less than 5 lakhs as per 1991 census, and

(v) Urban Community development Network (UCDN) - seeks to assist the urban poor in organizing themselves in self-managed community structures so as to gain collective strength to address the issues of poverty facing them and participate in the effective implementation of urban poverty alleviation programmes.

(b) and (c) Slum development and rehabilitation programmes are being taken under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of JNNURM are aimed at providing basic amenities viz. affordable shelter, land tenure, water, sanitation, primary health and social security, to the slum dwellers and urban poor. States have been requested to implement the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in a coordinated manner so that the beneficiaries under housing and slum rehabilitation programmes are also able to have access to livelihood opportunities provided under SJSRY. States have also been requested to conduct slum, household and livelihood surveys in slums so as to enable the States to match the skill sets of the slum dwellers with the emerging employment opportunities under the revamped Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).

#### **Master plan for slum dwellers**

1579.SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :