

rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The National Poverty Line is disaggregated into State-wise poverty lines in order to reflect the State-wise price differentials and these poverty lines are updated using Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) in rural areas and Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) for urban areas. The latest poverty estimates were released for the year 2004-05 based on the poverty line adopted at all-India expenditure level Rs. 356.30 per capita per month at 2004-05 prices for rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita per month for urban areas. The Planning Commission estimates the poverty using the above poverty lines from a large size sample survey of household consumer expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization after an interval of 5 years approximately.

Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group (Saxena Committee) to recommend suitable methodology for identification of BPL families in the rural areas. Alongwith other recommendations, this committee also suggested to presume poverty ratio at national level as 50%. The world bank computes the percentage of persons living below the international poverty line of \$1.25 a day (using purchasing power parity) and poverty ratio for India has been estimated as 41.6% in 2005. The Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar to review the methodology for estimation of poverty. On the basis of proposed revised methodology the poverty ratio at the national level has been estimated as 37.2% for the year 2004-05 by the Expert Group. The above different poverty estimates vary primarily because these are based on different methodologies. However, Planning Commission continues to be the nodal Government agency to estimate poverty in the country.

Unique Identification Authority of India

2219. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the UID Authority of India has been set up on 28th January, 2009;
- (b) if so, the progress that has been made, so far;
- (c) the roadmap of the project; and
- (d) the number of districts in Andhra Pradesh that are being covered under the project initially?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The mandate of the Unique Identification Authority of India is to issue unique identification numbers to all the residents. In order to ensure that each resident gets only one identification, demographic and biometric standards have been finalized by the Unique Identification Authority of India on the recommendations of Expert Committees. These standards/specifications, processes and systems will be used by all the Registrars to the Unique

Identification Authority of India in their enrolment of the residents in the Unique Identification system. Proof of Concept studies are at present being carried out. The process of enrolment leading to the issue of unique identification numbers is expected to commence from August, 2010 onwards.

Special status to Bundelkhand region

2220. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bundelkhand region has been granted special status to ensure accelerated development;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the role of the concerned State Governments in this regard?

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

(a) to (c) No special status has been granted to the Bundelkhand region comprising of seven districts of Uttar Pradesh (Banda, Chitrakoot, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Jhansi, Lalitpur and Mahoba) and six districts of madhya Pradesh (Chhatarpur, Damoh, Datia, Panna, Sagar and Tikamgarh) to ensure accelerated development. However, considering the hardship faced by the people due to consecutive rainfall deficiency since 2004-05 in the region, the Govt, of India has approved a special package for implementation of drought mitigation strategies in Bundelkhand envisaging an investment of Rs. 7266 crore to be implemented over a period of 3 years starting 2009-10. The share of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is Rs. 3506 crores and Rs. 3760 crores for their respective Bundelkhand regions. A part of the cost of the package of Rs. 7266 crore will be met by converging resources from on-going central programmes and schemes. To meet the gaps in availability of financial resources and provide a thrust to the implementation of drought mitigation strategies an Additional Central Assistance to the tune of Rs. 3450 crore has been envisaged for the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The two State Governments concerned will implement the various interventions and strategies envisaged under the package.

Special package of solar and other Energy

2221. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are hundreds of villages, in districts Reasi, Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Budgam, Kulgam, Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipur, Leh and Kargil of J&K, partly electrified and/or unelectrified and/or de-electrified and/or remain without electric supply for months during winter after snowfall snaps transmission lines; and
- (b) whether Government is inclined to include all these villages in a special package of solar and other alternate energy?

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

: (a) and (b) The Ministry New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is implementing Remote Village