

(c) whether Government has engaged external consultancy service to make such independent review of the Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the evaluation of the Act has since been completed;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether Government has received the report; and

(h) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) A study has already been conducted through an independent organization, namely, PricewaterhouseCoopers, to assess the key issues and constraints in implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

(e) to (g) The Organization has submitted the report, which points out that there is inadequate planning by the public authorities in regard to supply of information; awareness about the Act in rural areas is much less than in urban areas; awareness amongst women is much less than men; the gap in implementation of the Act is because of lack of clear accountability in respect of various functions, etc. In this regard, the study recommended measures for improving awareness on right to information; improving convenience in filing information requests; improving efficiency of the Information Commissions, enhancing accountability and clarity of various stakeholders, etc.

(h) The Government, in order to create awareness, has been launching awareness generation campaigns from time to time through television and radio. Rural areas have been reached by display of RTI posters in post offices located in rural areas. Assistance for capacity building has been provided to the Information Commissions under a centrally sponsored scheme. The Government is imparting training to public information officers, first appellate authorities and other stakeholders. It has issued several memoranda clarifying various provisions of the Act and has published five guides on the Right to Information Act.

‘Bharat Nirman’ programme

†4543. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that schemes like ‘Bharat Nirman’ programme for the development of rural areas, in particular and other schemes like the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission for the development of urban areas have been implemented in the country since 2004-05;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the facts thereof and names of the schemes implemented during the above period in the country for rural and urban regions separately and jointly; and

(c) the total allocation made for the implementation of these schemes upto March, 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
(a) to (c) Bharat Nirman was launched in the year 2005-06 as a time-bound business plan for building rural infrastructure in the areas of irrigation, roads, housing, water supply, electrification and telecommunication connectivity. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was launched in December, 2005 for improving the urban infrastructure and basic urban services. The scheme wise total allocation of funds for the implementation of these schemes upto March 2010 is given in the Statement.

Statement

The details of the schemes implemented for the development of the Rural and Urban regions in the country upto March, 2010

							(Rs. crore)
Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total allocation made upto March, 2010
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bharat Nirman							
1.	Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)	4800	7121	3580	5550	9700	30751
2.	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	3810	5225.62	6500	7530	12000	35065.62
3.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)*	4050	5200	6500	7300	8100	31150
4.	Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)	1100	3000	3983	5500	7000	20583
5.	Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)	2750	2920	4040	5400	8800	23910
6.	Rural Telephony#	29.86	55.4	44.73	18.65	36.88	185.52
TOTAL:		16539.86	23522.02	24647.73	31298.65	45636.88	141645.14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)	90	4900	6000	11088.35	12887	34965.35

*For year 2009-10, it includes Rs. 100 crore Stand Alone Water Purification System in rural schools.

#Funded through Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund

Assessment of poor people

†4544. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any survey had been conducted to assess the number of poor people in the country in 2002;

(b) if so, the total number of people living below poverty line on the basis of the survey;

(c) whether it is also a fact that reports of Committees have come to light to assess the number of poor people even during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the names of these Committees along with the assessment of each Committee regarding number of poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
(a) and (b) The Planning Commission is the nodal agency in the Government to estimate poverty in the country. Since the year 1997, the poverty has been estimated on the basis of methodology contained in the report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). Poverty level is estimated from a large sample survey of household consumer expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) after an interval of five years approximately. The last poverty estimates have been released for the year 2004-05 based on the 61st Round of NSSO data. However, the Ministry of Rural Development conducts the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census through States/UTs generally in the beginning of a five-year Plan to identify the BPL families living below the poverty line in the rural areas who could be targeted under its various programmes. The last such BPL census was conducted in 2002.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. While the Planning Commission is the nodal Central Government agency to estimate poverty, some other Committees/Commissions have also indicated the poverty estimates in their Reports. The Saxena Committee constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development suggested to assume the poverty ratio at national level as 50%; the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector in its report mentioned that 77 % of total population were living with a per capita daily consumption of upto Rs. 20 in 2004-05, who were called poor and vulnerable; the World Bank uses

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.