

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all. You should be satisfied.

Question No. 324.

Scheduled Caste families brought above poverty line

*324. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state the number of Scheduled Caste families which have crossed the poverty line by the end of November, 1983 under the Revised 20-Point Programme?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): The number of Scheduled Caste families economically assisted during the Sixth Five Year Plan is given below:

(in Lakhs)

1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
..		Upto October, 83	
6.73	18.00	21.25	9.85

It is difficult to indicate the number of families who have actually crossed the poverty-line without detailed evaluation of the impact of the programmes.

SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Sometimes, it may so happen that the estimates of additional income originally estimated are not true in fact. The family which is supposed to have crossed the poverty line on a particular date may slide back if the assistance is not continued to the beneficiary family. The family card is not always issued to each family in many cases and also it is not made up-to-date. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what procedure is adopted in determining that the family which has crossed the poverty line has really done so and whether they have actually crossed the poverty line or not. That is the main thing to be known. Otherwise, the programme will have no effect. My next question is whether the Planning Commission or the administrative Ministry has issued any guidelines to adopt the programme to suit the needs of the

Scheduled Castes and if so, which are the States that have acted on these guidelines because, Sir, generally the schemes which are in the Plans for general areas are implemented without taking into consideration the circumstances of the Scheduled Caste families, their economic background and social background. This does not always help them. Therefore, I want to know if any modification is made to adopt that scheme in the case of Scheduled Caste families. The next question is.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, will you let him answer about what you have already asked?

SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Sir, these are the two questions to which I would like the Minister to reply.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, about the first part of the question, the entire exercise of poverty line is based on the 32nd survey of the National Sample Survey organisation, and thereafter I don't think that we have any figures of the exact number of people who are taken above the poverty line or who have slid back. This kind of exercise is still not undertaken. Now, in 1983, the NSS survey is going on and we will have some kind of a sample survey by which it will be possible for us to find out as to how many people have actually crossed the poverty line. As I have already stated, it would be difficult at this stage to give the number of Scheduled Caste people amongst those who have crossed the poverty line, and it will be very difficult to say what their number is. About the guidelines, the guidelines are given by the Home Ministry as to how much money needs to be provided by each State Government for the Scheduled Caste Component Plan. And assistance is also given by the Centre for accelerated development of the economic programmes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Maurya.

श्री बृज बिजय मौर्य : माननीय सभापति जी, यदि माननीय मंत्री जी के पास आंकड़े नहीं हैं तो गरीबी की समस्या का और विशेष तौर से अतिसर्वहारा, शोषित समाज के वर्ग की गरीबी की समस्या का शीघ्रनिश्चयी कोई हल निकल सके, इसके लिए क्या वे आंकड़े तलाश करेंगे, बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पूरे देश में जो गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे के लोग हैं उनमें से शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शिड्यूल्ड ट्राइब के कितने लोग हैं ? क्योंकि जब तक मर्ज का पता नहीं चलेगा तो इलाज नहीं हो सकता इसलिए ये अतिसर्वहारा समाज के लोग जल्दी से जल्दी गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे से ऊपर आ सकें इसके लिए क्या भारत सरकार कोशिश करेगी कि ऐसे लोग शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट के जो अगर मिडिल क्लास हैं, जो मालदार कहे जा सकते हैं, वे ल टूटू कहे जा सकते हैं, जो मालदार की परिभाषा में आते हैं उनके परिवार के व्यक्ति को किसी भी प्रकार से शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट या शिड्यूल्ड ट्राइब की सुविधाएँ न मिलें ताकि सीधा सीधा गरीब शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शिड्यूल्ड ट्राइब के लोगों को लाभ पहुंचे ? क्या ऐसी भी व्यवस्था भारत सरकार करेगी ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, on the basis of the 1977-78 NSS survey, the total population which was below the poverty line—[a] population—in rural areas is 48.9 per cent, in urban areas it is 34.6 per cent, and the combined figure is 45.7 per cent. The figure for Scheduled Castes in rural areas is 61.2 per cent, in urban areas, it will be 48.7 per cent and the average percentage comes to 59.7. About the efforts, the total flow of the State resources for Scheduled Caste component in the Sixth Plan is Rs. 4204 crores and special Central assistance is Rs. 600 crores, total comes to Rs.

4804 crores. The actuals in 1980-81 are Rs. 457 crores from the State Government and Rs. 100 crores from the Centre, total comes to Rs. 557 crores. In 1981-82 the anticipated expenditure is Rs. 651 crores from the States and Rs. 110 crores is the Central assistance, total comes to Rs. 761 crores. The anticipated figure for 1982-83 is Rs. 710 crores and Rs. 120 crores is the Central assistance, and the total comes to Rs. 830 crores. And in 1983-84 the allocation is Rs. 808 crores by the State Government, and Rs. 130 crores by the Centre and the total comes to Rs. 938 crores. The latter part of his question is a good suggestion and I do not think we have been able to take any decision in the matter.

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK:

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this has been a lofty programme whatever the scheme; to lift people below the poverty line above the poverty line. Now, as I understand this is just not meant only for the Scheduled Caste and Tribe people. There are also many other people who are below the poverty line spread all over the country. It is no longer a pride or pleasure for us to just boast that there are so many people who are below the poverty line. The more and more we emphasise it, more and more we should be ashamed of it. Now, I am not blaming the hon. Minister or the party in power today at the Centre. Whatever money is being earmarked it is being distributed to the different States. But this money never reaches the targets. It is spent or mis-spent in the middle and this is particularly happening in Orissa. I may just inform the hon. Minister that under a Scheme called the Land Reforms Release of the Bonded Labour they have mis-spent crores of rupees and in a place like the district of Cuttack where....

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing this.....

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK:

I am informing the Minister what the background is and then I am asking the question. Let him know the background how the money is being spent. (*Interruptions*). In Cuttack district they have earmarked under one item only Rs. 1.03 crores and they have mis-spent more than that amount that is Rs. 1.27 crores and there are Rs. 31 lakhs which are unaccounted. This is the position regarding only one district under one scheme. Now, what we hear is that poor people are being given cows goats, poultry and his and that But the fact is that they have not been given even paper cows and paper goats and what they have been given is only on paper. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister whether he would make it possible to find time to visit at least one part of the country, namely, Orissa and see how the Plans are ending in wilderness. (*Interruptions*). Do not get excited. I am not taking a partisan attitude. Each pie must be accounted for and must find the target. Now, I call the hon. Minister to find time to visit Orissa.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have asked that question. Are you prepared to visit any of these places? (*Interruptions*). You don't join issue with them.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, I cannot possibly assure that I will be visiting that State. But, at the same time, I consider the State Governments are equally responsible and the kind of incident which the hon. Member has stated if he were to write to the Home Minister giving all the details about that particular area in which this kind of mis-spending has been done, certainly they will look into them. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are three of them. No, no, at the end.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: Sir, the hon. Minister will agree with me that poverty line is the extra concept. Now, it seems that the National Sample Survey is calculating, evaluating,

poverty line. May I know what is the criteria of poverty line? Will he concretise it and on what basis the poverty line is being calculated? Is it based on consumption level or income level and on what basis it is conceptualised poverty line?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You explain poverty line first.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I think poverty line has been explained repeatedly in this House and every hon. Member, I suppose, is aware of the fact that in rural areas, the entire exercise is based on the consumption expenditure. In the rural areas as also in the urban areas the caloric value is taken and the relevant caloric value in the rural areas is 2400 and in case of urban areas, it is 2100. On this basis, the entire exercise has been done. This is the conceptual figure which we are trying to translate into practice. Thirty-second NSS Survey gave the figure of persons below poverty line and on that basis, if we were to translate this expenditure into income, it comes to Rs. 65 in the case of rural areas and Rs. 75 in case of urban areas, according to 1977-78 rate; that is the figure which comes around and on that basis the entire calculation has been done. I don't think there is any scope for any misinterpretation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, Sir: . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think I will have to choose between those who are below the poverty line and others; many are well above the poverty line.

श्री रामभगत पासवान : अध्यक्ष महोदय जो गरीब लोग हैं उन को उठाने के लिए बहुत से कार्यक्रम किये गये हैं, वीस पाइंट प्रोग्राम के अंतर्गत गृहविहीनी को घर दिया जायेगा, बेरोजगारी को रोजगार दिया जायेगा, भूमि हीनों को भूमि दी जायेगी। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना

चाहता हूँ कि पावर्टी लाइन से उपर उठाने के लिए कितने भूमिहीनों को देश के अंदर भूमि दी गयी है, कितने बेरोजगारी को रोजगार दिया गया है और कितने गृहविहीनो को घर दिया गया है और कितने मजदूरों को मिनिमम मजदूरी दिलायी गयी है ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: This is a very wide question....

MR. CHAIRMAN: And you have not got the details. Quite correct.

SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the period 1981-82, there was a slum population of 13.3 million, and this year 1982-83, the figure has gone up to 31.3 million; it is increasing. These are the persons who are mostly below the poverty line, and they include mostly the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how, in spite of undertaking some time-bound programme of 10 years, the slum population is increasing every year. At this rate, by next year, the figure may go up to 40 million. I would like to know what action is being taken to bring down the number of slum population and bring them out of their present position of below the poverty line.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I do not have the figures of slum population.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the hon. Minister of Planning be pleased to state as to how many States are monitoring the 20-point programme implementation with regard to bringing the people above the poverty line and whether there is any system to see that the State Governments report to the Centre the latest position, either half-yearly or annually, about monitoring the implementation of the programme. At

the moment, I think no specific reply has been given to what we have asked.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The Planning Commission and the administrative Ministries have written to all the Chief Ministers of the States to constitute monitoring committees at the district and bloc levels, and I have received replies from almost all the Chief Ministers wherein they have stated that these monitoring committees have been set up; public representatives have also been associated at the monitoring stage. I am not aware whether these committees have been meeting regularly or not; but we did get replies from the Chief Ministers that these monitoring committees are functioning.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, the Planning Commission in its mid-term appraisal of the Sixth Plan, has estimated that 57 million people—if I am correct about the figures—have been lifted above the poverty line, during the first three years of the Plan. The Prime Minister almost about the same time, stated that 120 million people have been lifted above the poverty line. May the House be enlightened by the hon. Minister of Planning as to who supplied these two sets of figures and what is the basis of these two calculations?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: It is a question about the Scheduled Castes. The hon. Member has asked me the total figure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The total number below the poverty line.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: In the afternoon, we are having a discussion on the mid-term review. This can be taken up at that time.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Is it proper, Sir?

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: This is no answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today, you are having a discussion on this. I do not think we should waste much time. By the time we finish this question; many more will go below the poverty line.

*325. [The questioner (Shri Satya Pal Malik) was absent. For answer vide col. 39-40 *infra*]

*326. [The questioner (Shri Gulam Mohi-ud-Din Shawl) was absent for answer vide col. 40-41 *infra*]
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Looting of Passengers Trains

*327. **SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in U.P. railway passengers were looted at Basti on the 1st December, 1983;

(b) what is the number of railway passengers who were looted in the last three months;

(c) whether passenger trains were made target of attack for the extremists in Punjab and in other States; and

(d) what is the total number of railway accidents, train lootings during September, 1983 to December, 1983 and what steps Ministry has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR):

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) According to the information available with the Government the explosion at Gauhati Railway Station

on 7-11-1983 is suspected to have been caused by extremist elements. There has also been a case of railway accident at Mandi Govindgarh in Punjab on 21-10-1983 due to suspected sabotage.

(b) and (d) During September to November, 1983, 201 train accidents took place on Indian Railways. Some of the measures to prevent accidents are:

(i) Toning up the system to ensure utmost precautions by the staff in train operation by intensifying inspections, frequent surprise checks and counselling of staff in correct methods of working.

(ii) Stringent and demonstrative action against staff responsible for accidents.

(iii) Special field inspections by teams of senior officers to study problems for immediate corrective action.

(iv) Seeking cooperation of State Governments in educating road users to exercise caution and vigilance while negotiating level crossings.

(v) Progressive manning of level crossing and providing telephones/interlocking at larger number of manned crossing.

(vi) Monitoring of safety efforts by the Railway Board Zonal General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers.

(vii) Renewal of track, replacement of coaches, wagons and locomotives and other equipment within resources available.

According to available information (provisional), there were 26 cases of dacoity and 62 cases of robbery in trains from August, 1983 to October, 1983. The Railways are taking the following measures to prevent incidents of crimes on railways:—