

material and in different climatic conditions to bring down the cost of the plant to work out distribution mechanisms and to study socio-economic aspects. These programmes have been sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and are periodically monitored by DST's National Technical Committee on bio-gas.

Protection and Welfare of SC and ST

1078. SHRI T. ALIBA IMTI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps Government have taken for the protection and welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as per the recommendation contained in the Report by the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which was presented to Parliament recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): The 26th Annual Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1978-79 has been sent to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and the concerned Central Ministries/Departments. They have been requested to take expeditious action on the recommendations made by the Commissioner and intimate to this Ministry the action taken or proposed to be taken by them.

Rural People Living below Poverty Line

1079. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural people living below the poverty line in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of urban people living below the poverty line in the country, State-wise;

(c) the figures as compared to the last census; and

(d) the steps envisaged in the Sixth Five Year Plan to ameliorate their lot?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c) The estimates of the number of people living below poverty line are based on the sample survey of household consumer expenditure and not on population census. Therefore the estimates can be prepared only for the years for which the National Sample Survey Organisation conducted such a survey. Comparable estimates of the people living below the poverty line are available for the years 1972-73 and 1977-78. A statement showing these estimates is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Sixth Five Year Plan, envisages an overall rate of growth of 5.2 per cent per annum. The achievement of the overall growth target will itself create favourable conditions for reduction of poverty. In addition, the plan contains a number of specific schemes to help the poorer sections directly. These include: the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the Drought Prone Areas Programme, the Desert Development Programme, the Rural Godowns Programme, the National Programme for Training Rural Youth for Self-employment, the National Rural Employment programme and the Minimum Needs Programme. The Plan provides Rs. 5808 crores for the National Minimum Needs Programme and Rs. 3487 crores for the IRD & NRE programmes. The Plan also makes a provision of Rs. 720 crores for welfare of backward classes and Rs. 1310 crores for special component Plan for the scheduled castes, tribal sub-plan for scheduled tribes and implementation of centrally sponsored schemes.