

However, the official estimates of poverty in India are based on the data obtained from a large sample survey of household consumption expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in the country including above eight States with an interval of five years approximately. As per the latest available official poverty ratios for the year 2004-05, the total number of persons living below poverty line in these eight States is estimated to be 193.8 million as against a total number of 301.7 million poor people at all India level.

The Government is implementing a number of poverty alleviation programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission (JNNURM), Swarna Jyanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), etc. All these poverty alleviation programmes of the Government have an in-built mechanism for progressiveness since the central support to State/State level implementing agencies under all these programme/schemes are guided by the State specific incidence of poverty.

Import duty on power generation equipment

1269. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has recommended a 14 per cent import duty on power generation equipment;
- (b) if so, the reasons for imposing such a import duty;
- (c) whether Government is aware that manufacturer PSUs like BHEL will be impacted with this duty which will limit their competition from overseas market particularly Chinese market; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to withdraw the duty forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
 (a) and (b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Industry), Planning Commission was constituted to suggest options and modalities to take care of the disadvantages suffered by the domestic industry related to mega power projects in the power sector. The committee has *inter-alia* recommended that in order to bridge the disadvantage of about 14% suffered by the domestic industry related to mega power projects, the import duties may be brought at par with the non-mega power projects by way of levy of Custom duty @10%, additional custom duty- 'Nil' and SAD (Special Additional Duty) @4%.

(c) The proposal seeks to protect the interest of domestic manufacturers including PSUs like BHEL.

(d) The recommendations of the Committee have been considered by the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) in its meeting held on 12.07.2010.