

- (x) Except for Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, there was a serious shortage of cooks for CMDM in the sample schools across the country.
  - (xi) It has been observed that most of the States do not follow the guidelines of Government of India to deliver the foodgrain at the school point by PDS dealer resulting in leakage in the supply of foodgrain.
  - (xii) The scheme has been successful in eliminating classroom hunger as a majority of sample beneficiaries have reported that the meal available at school is adequate.
  - (xiii) It has been observed that CMDM was able to bring together children from different communities in almost all the States and was thus able to achieve the objective of social equity to a considerable extent.
  - (xiv) In most of the States, teachers spend about one to two hours daily on activities related to CMDM which reduced teaching time.
  - (xv) Out of the 17 sample State where the data was collected, students in 9 States reported that they were involved in washing utensils.
- (c) The implementation of the necessary measures, for making the scheme more beneficial and fruitful, is under the purview of the Ministry which implements the programme.

#### **Poverty eradication programme**

1266. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's poverty eradication programmes and policies have faltered in view of rising food prices;
- (b) if so, whether the number of families below poverty line have increased; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to contain food inflation and to check rising poverty?

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

(a) to (c) The Planning Commission as the nodal Government agency, estimates the number and proportion of people below poverty line based on the large sample survey of household consumer expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) after an interval of about five years. The latest poverty estimates available for the year 2004-05 indicate that head count poverty ratio has declined from 36% in 1993-94 to 27.5% in 2004-05. The poverty estimates, as reported by the Tendulkar Committee Report, clearly indicate that the percentage of population below poverty line has declined by about the same magnitude for the same period. The results of the ongoing survey by NSSO on consumption expenditure for the year 2009-10, expected to become available by 2011, would help in revealing the fresh estimates of poverty.

The Government has already taken various fiscal and administrative measures to contain the price rise in essential commodities. In addition, the medium term initiatives have also been taken

by the Government in the form of National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to improve production and productivity in agriculture. The Reserve Bank of India has also calibrated the policy rates to address the inflationary concerns.

#### Development status of Uttar Pradesh

1267. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh is one of the most backward State in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the specific steps Government propose to take to bring Uttar Pradesh at par with well off States?

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

(a) to (c) The Central Government does not make any categorization of the States in terms of most backwardness. However, Uttar Pradesh is lagging behind in some of the socio-Economic Developmental Indicators. The Socio-Economic Developmental Indicators for Uttar Pradesh in comparison with some Major States of India and all India average are shown below:

States	IMR (2008)	Life Expectancy (2002-2006)	Literacy Rate (2001)	Sex Ratio (2001)	Per capita NSDP (at constant prices) 2008-09 (Rs)
Andhra Pradesh	52	64.4	60.47	978	26983
Bihar	56	61.6	47.00	919	9586
Odisha	69	59.6	63.08	972	16945
Punjab	41	69.4	69.65	876	33153
Haryana	54	66.2	67.91	861	42267
Rajasthan	63	62	60.41	921	19079
Tamil Nadu	31	66.2	73.45	987	30652
Uttar Pradesh	67	60	56.27	898	12481
India	53	63.5	64.84	933	25494

A number of schemes are being formulated and implemented to address needs of the states. The Backward Region Fund (BRGF) especially has been designed to address the issues relating to reduction in regional imbalances of the regions in the states. In addition, various schemes under Bharat Nirman Programme and Flagship Programmes of the Central Government including MGNREGA, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Mid Day Meal, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, National Rural Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Scheme, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission etc. are being implemented to address the backwardness of the region in the states. The projected outlay for Eleventh Five