

#### **Criteria for estimation of BPL population**

1784. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N. K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a multitude of criteria exist for estimation of people living Below Poverty Line (BPL);
- (b) whether there has been variation in the poverty estimates due to the inconsistency in definition;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government is considering any proposal for a revised set of indicators for the identification of people living BPL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Poverty is a multi-dimensional issue and various experts/committees and institutions estimate poverty based on different perceptions/ definitions. However, Planning Commission is the nodal agency in the Government of India to estimate poverty in the country. Since 1997, the poverty estimates have been based on the methodology contained in the report of the Expert group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor' (Lakadawala Committee). The latest poverty estimates released for 2004-05 based on 61st Round of NSS consumer expenditure data estimated the poverty at 27.5% in the country. In the meanwhile, an Expert Group under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar was constituted by the Planning Commission in 2005 to review the methodology of estimation of poverty and it has submitted its recommendations in December 2009. The Expert Group has estimated poverty in the country as 37.2% in 2004-05 as against the official estimates of 27.5%.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development is undertaking a pilot survey to arrive at methodology for the next BPL Census for identification of people living below the Poverty Line in rural areas of the country.

#### **Upgradation of roads in Gujarat**

1785. SHRI NATUJIHALAJI THAKOR:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: