

income set to move a notch higher by end of the decade/' These findings are similar to the one brought out in the National Sample Survey (NSS) report no. 508 titled "Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-05", which indicates that the monthly per-capita consumption expenditure in real terms has gradually increased for each percentile group of the population. This can be attributed to effective policy intervention of the Government through implementation of various developmental programmes.

Subsidy to bridge economic Disparities

2791. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of money spent during the last three years as subsidies on food, fertilizer and petroleum to bridge economic disparities;
- (b) whether Government conducted any study to find out whether the subsidies are actually reaching the poor people;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and
- (d) the steps taken to create jobs in tribal and rural areas to bridge inter-regional imbalances and economic disparities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
 (a) The quantum of money spent during the last three years as subsidies on food, fertilizer and petroleum, as per the Budget 2010-11 document, is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|------------|----------|----------|---------------------|
| Item/Year | (Actual) | (Actual) | (Revised Estimates) |
| Food | 31328 | 43751 | 56002 |
| Fertilizer | 32490 | 76603 | 52980 |
| Petroleum | 2820 | 2852 | 14954 |

Source: Expenditure Budget Volume-1 (2010-11)

(b) and (c) The Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission conducted an evaluation study (on sample basis) on Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) covering 18 States, the report of which was brought out in 2005. The study found that about 58 percent of the subsidized food grains issued from the Central Pool did not reach the BPL families due to identification errors, non-transparent operation and unethical practices in the implementation of TPDS. The findings of the study are in the public domain at www.planningcommission.gov.in.

To improve the functioning of TPDS, Department of Food & Public Distribution has initiated the Nine Point Action Plan which includes (i) continuous review to eliminate bogus ration cards; (ii) ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities; (iii) involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations; (iv) ensuring transparency in working of PDS; (v) computerization of TPDS operations; (vi) carry out door-step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops; (vii) ensuring timely availability of food grains at fair price shops; (viii) creating awareness and (ix) making fair price shops financially viable entities.

(d) To create jobs in the rural areas (including tribal areas), the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has been operationalized, guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. During the last three years (2007-08 to 2009-10), 642.49 crores of person days of employment have been created with an expenditure of Rs. 81,045.15 crores under the scheme. As far as creation of jobs in the tribal areas is concerned, numerous schemes have been initiated by the Union Government such as vocational training centres in tribal areas, special central assistance under tribal sub plan, scheme of investment in Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED), etc,

Variation between Poverty Incidences

2792. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: