

roads, on both sides, as indicated by NEC would be about Rs.400 crore. Keeping in view the large spillover works of earlier Five Year Plans (Ninth and Tenth Plan) amounting to Rs.1462.46 crore and limited availability of resources, Planning Commission approved 'in-principle' 16 road projects under 11th Five Year Plan of NEC at an estimated cost of Rs.1284.16 crore.

No proposal from the 9th/10th Five Year Plan period is pending with the Planning Commission for 'in-Principle' approval. As regards 11th Five Year Plan, NEC has again submitted a list of 40 road and bridges projects seeking 'in-principle' approval. The project of "Bridges over Luit and Khabuli, including road from North Lakhimpur-Kamalabari" has again been included in the list at Sl. No. 39. Taking into account the resources position of NEC, Planning Commission is seized of the matter.

Eradication of poverty and education for all

2802. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite economic growth the country is still way behind in providing basic amenities to its citizen as reported in the media;
- (b) if so, whether South-Asian nations including India would not be able to eradicate poverty and ensure minimum education for all by 2015;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the target date fixed by Government for eradication of poverty from the country; and
- (e) the achievement made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
(a) to (e) The media has reported the findings based on the Index of over 130 countries devised by a global NGO, "Social Watch," that the South-Asian nations including India will not be able to eradicate poverty and ensure minimum education for all by 2015. The NGO is reported to have prepared the index which identified situations of poverty consisting of 3 indicators: viz. (i) the percentage of children reaching fifth grade, (ii) survival until the age of 5 and (iii) the percentage of births attended by skilled personnel.

Various NGOs, research institutions and experts carry out their research work with emphasis on certain parameters which according to their perceptions measure the poverty. However, India is committed to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of United Nations (UN). Out of 18 targets prescribed under MDGs, only 12 are relevant for India and the statistical tracking of these targets is done by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).

The achievements for some of the targets under MDGs are given below:

Targets under MDGs	Achievements
1	2
1. Reduce the Percentage of Population below the National Poverty Line by 50% between 1990 and 2015	The incidence of poverty declined from 55 per cent in 1973-74 to 36 per cent in 1993-94 and further to 27.5 per cent in 2004-05 (rural 28.3 per cent and urban 25.7 per cent). Going by the trend of URP based estimates for the year 1993-94 and 2004-05, the trend rate of decline is 0.8 per cent during 1993-94 to 2004-05. The rate of decline based on thin sample estimates of consumer expenditure for the year 2005-06 is 1.4 per cent. If the improvement in the rate of decline in the poverty as observed during 2004-05 to 2005-06 is maintained in the subsequent years or further improved, it is expected that India will be able to achieve the 2015 target.
2. Ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to compete a full course of primary education.	The overall Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) of 96 per cent in 2008 against 87.4 per cent in 2000 indicates that 100 per cent NER should be achievable before 2015.

1	2
3. Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five Mortality Rate.	The under-five mortality rate (U5MR) has decreased from 109.3 per thousand live births in 1992-93 to 74.3 per thousand live births in 2005-06.

The development policy of the country takes the cognizance of MDGs. The various flagship programmes namely Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, etc. have been designed to accelerate the pace of the achievement of relevant MDGs.

Identification of backward and Tribal Prone Districts

2803. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms adopted for identification of backward and tribal prone districts in the country and districts identified as per these norms, State-wise;
- (b) the scheme being implemented for development of the districts identified as backward and tribal prone particularly in regard to Gujarat State and achievement made as a result thereof;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any review in this regard;
- (d) is so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
 (a) and (b) Various norms have been adopted for the identification of backward districts under different schemes. However, the specific scheme for development of backward districts in the country is the District Component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) under which 250 districts have been identified for coverage. These include the 200 districts covered under the first phase of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) and 170 districts identified by