

(c) The details of some of the other poverty estimates based on different methodologies/ perceptions mentioned in various reports are listed below.

- (i) The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) set up by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in 2004 brought out a report on Conditions of Work and Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganised Sector which reported that 77% of the population had a per capita daily consumption of up to Rs. 20 in 2004-05. The Committee did not provide any justification for using the cut-off amount of Rs. 20 per day. Besides, the estimation of 77% is also erroneous since the percentage works out to 60.5 percent.
- (ii) In the World Development Indicators 2008 brought out by the World Bank, the global poverty line has been calibrated at US \$ 1.25 a day. For India, the percentage of people living below the global poverty line as defined by World Bank is reported to have declined from 59.8% in 1981 to 51.3% in 1990 and further to 41.6% in 2005.
- (iii) The Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group headed by Dr. N.C. Saxena to recommend a suitable methodology for identification of BPL families in rural areas. The Saxena Committee report also contained the suggestion that the national level poverty ratio can be assumed at 50 percent which was not based on any specific justification.
- (iv) The Human Development Report 2010 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 4 November, 2010 has introduced a new measure of poverty named Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). This index replaces the Human Poverty Index (HPI) that was being reported in the UNDP Human Development Reports since 1997. The MPI covers multidimensional deprivation suffered by the poor broadly under health, education and standard of living irrespective of income or consumption expenditure levels. Based on the above parameters Headcount Ratio of MPI for India has been estimated at 55.4 percent.

Completion of Railway Projects

1786. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) in view of many projects of Railway are not completed for 20 to 30 years, whether all Railway Projects are sanctioned by the Planning Commission and when a Project is sanctioned it has time-frame and budget or not; and

(b) whether Railways could declare as many projects they want without the approval of Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The projects costing upto Rs.300 crore are approved by the Ministry of Railways after seeking in principle approval and comments of the Planning Commission. The projects costing above Rs.300 crores are considered by Expanded Railway Board (EBR) which includes Secretary (Planning Commission), Secretary (Department of Expenditure) and Secretary (Programme Implementation) as members besides Railway Board. The recommendations of EBR are considered and processed by the Ministry of Railways. Thereafter, Ministry of Railways submits the proposals including recommendations of EBR and comments of the concerned Ministries and Planning Commission for approval of the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI). After the approval of the CCI the project proposals are taken up for implementation by the Ministry of Railways for which Budget and Time-frame are always fixed. However, the progress of implementation of some projects get hampered due to non-availability of sufficient resources, security problems, administrative delays in getting statutory clearances and contractual failures etc., which contribute in prolonging the period of completion of the projects.

Universalization of school education

1787. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recently acknowledged to State Governments that funds provided under plan scheme are inadequate for achieving the goal of universalizing school education;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has now asked States to put in place a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for schools;

(c) if so, whether any framework for the PPP for schools has been prepared; and

(d) if so, the modalities worked out for the proper implementation of the PPP scheme for schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) School education consists of various stages viz. Primary (Class I-V), Upper primary (Class VI-VIII), Secondary (Class IX and X) and Higher Secondary (Class XI and XII). Elementary Education, combines Primary and Upper primary education (Class I to VIII). The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act, 2009) was notified on 27th August, 2009. The RTE Act which has become operative with effect from 1st April 2010 provides the legislative framework for Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE). The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the principal programme for UEE in the country. The Eleventh Plan Central