

(b) The above schemes have been designed to provide Self/Wage Employment, Area Development and Basic Minimum requirement like housing, Drinking Water and Hygienic Environment to the families living below the poverty line in rural areas of the country, except the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Delhi. These schemes are to increase the income of the families and improved standard of living.

(c) and (d) The Government of the Goa has been implementing the major schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development, namely the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Rural Water Supply Programme (RWSP), the Swajaldhara and the Central Rural Sanitation Campaign (CRSP)/Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

#### **Target for constitution of self-help groups**

†2495. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a symbolic target for constitution of 5.85 lakh Self-Help Groups upto 31st March, 2007 has been fixed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all the Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks including NABARD have been included in this programme; and

(c) if so, the details, State-wise, district-wise and Bank-wise of target fixed therefor till 31st March, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Specific quota for other backward class people under BPL**

2496. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government in its guideline has indicated any specific quota for other backward class people under

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

BPL category in the matter of execution of welfare schemes as it is in the case of SC/ST people, if not, will the Government consider the case?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA):** No, Sir. The poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development are being implemented to improve the economic condition and quality of life of the rural poor. These programmes are open for all the rural BPL families, however, preference is given to the SCs/STs and other weaker sections of the society who are comparatively more vulnerable.

### **Incentives to growers of bio-diesel plants**

**2497. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "Power Ministry Malls Sugarcane approach" for bio-diesel which appeared in Media;

(b) if so, what incentive Government propose to offer to the growers of bio-diesel plants and by when such incentives are likely to be announced; and

(c) if the answer to part(b) above is in negative, what are reasons thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (A. NARENDRA):** (a) to (c) The news item referred to in the question appeared in The Statesman dated 5th September, 2004. This approach advocates growing of bio-diesel plants in advance before the required processing facilities are set up. For promotion of bio-diesel production, *Jatropha curcas* has been identified as a suitable plant for extensive cultivation. However, since this plant is a new introduction in the country and has no history of cultivation as a mono-crop and relevant data base on varieties, aronomic practices, productivity etc. is presently lacking, the Ministry of Rural Development has submitted a Detailed project Report (DPR) for approval of the Planning Commission to launch a demonstration project, under which *Jatropha* cultivation would be taken up on 4 lakh hectares in various States, primarily on degraded forest lands and Panchayat/community wastelands. If this demonstration project proves successful, *Jatropha* plantation would be taken up on a large