

Early enactment of Lokpal Bill

1321. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of demand by Civil Society for eradication of corruption and for an early enactment of Lokpal Bill to punish the guilty persons;

(b) whether the Lokpal Bill pending before the Parliament since long is a weak Bill and not acceptable to social activists;

(c) if so, by when Joint Committee looking into this matter is expected to finalise its report; and

(d) the time Government would take to bring forward the Lokpal Bill before Parliament during Monsoon Session?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) To establish a strong and effective Lokpal, the Government had constituted a Joint Drafting Committee on 8.4.2011, consisting of five nominee Ministers from Government of India and five nominees of Shri Anna Hazare (including himself), to prepare a draft of the Lokpal Bill. Based on the deliberations of the Committee, and on the basis of inputs from Chief Ministers of States and political parties, Government has drafted the Lokpal Bill, 2011. The Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 04.08.2011. Prior to this, no Lokpal Bill was pending before the Parliament.

Demand by UID authority

1322. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand by the Unique Identification (UID) Authority for 2011-12 is Rs. 3,500 crore as against the recommended allocation of only 1,400 crore;

(b) if so, whether the UID project will be hampered since Government provides all funds required for its implementation; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) UIDAI had projected a demand of Rs.3373 crore in Budget Estimates (BE) 2011-12 against which BE of Rs. 1470 crore was approved.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Adequate funds are available at present for the project.

Low BPL figure than projected by all States

1323. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about the fact that various reports show the BPL figure as 36 per cent which was much lower than those projected by almost all the States;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to make any authentic figure about this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The poverty line has been traditionally defined by the Planning Commission on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. The number and proportion of persons living below the poverty line (BPL) are computed for the States as well as the country using the data from Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Based on Tendulkar Methodology, the poverty ratio in 2004-05 is 41.8% in rural areas, 25.7% in urban areas and 37.2% in the country.

The Planning Commission is in the process of revising poverty estimates on the basis NSSO survey data of 2009-10 on Household Consumer Expenditure, which are now available.

Recommendation for increase of plan layout

1324. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any recommendation for increase of plan layout and extra focus for Panchayati Raj System during Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the recommendations thereof;
- (c) whether experts have indicated that last plan layout and focus for Panchayati Raj System during Eleventh Five Year Plan was not sufficient;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government for increase of plan layout and extra focus for Panchayati Raj System during Twelfth Five Year Plan; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) The main sources of outlay for the Panchayati Raj System include allocation of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Additional Central Assistance such as the District Component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), funds from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Central and State Finance Commission Awards. The Planning Commission is currently in the process of formulation of Twelfth Five Year Plan for which various Steering Committees and Working Groups