

of the Empowered Sub-Committee to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on 15.7.2008. The Minister of Panchayati Raj conveyed to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 10.9.2008 that the Chief Ministers had been regularly informed of all the meetings of the Empowered Sub-Committee and that there was no need to call another meeting of the Empowered Sub-Committee after the final meeting of 8.7.2008 unless circumstances demanded.

(b) and (c) A revised draft NDC Resolution was forwarded by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to the Planning Commission on 6.7.2010. Subsequently, a meeting of the Empowered Sub-Committee had been scheduled for 11.1.2012 which could not be held as some Members were not available. Now, the meeting of the Empowered Sub-Committee is proposed to be held on 25.5.2012 to discuss the draft Resolution to be submitted to the NDC.

#### **Population below the Poverty Line**

3007. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government has estimated the share of the population just below the threshold of the BPL line to the other side of the threshold in the calculations that have been made to determine how the rate of poverty alleviation has increased to 1.4 per cent per annum in the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): The Planning Commission has recently computed estimates of poverty for the year 2009-10 based on the data of large scale survey on household consumer expenditure collected by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in its 66th round conducted during 2009-10 following the extant Tendulkar methodology. Based on the said methodology the Planning Commission has released the estimates through a Press Note issued on 19th March 2012. As indicated in the Press Note, the poverty ratio in the country has come down from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 29.8% in 2009-10. This implies that there is a reduction of about 1.5 percentage points between 2004-05 and 2009-10.

#### **Growth of Urban Population of Developing Economies**

†3008. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is fact that it has come in to the light on the basis of United Nations figures and estimates that the urban population of developing economies shall grow tremendously till 2037;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

- (b) If so the reaction of Government thereon;
- (c) Whether this is also a fact that development will take place on the basis of urbanization in future; and
- (d) If so, the assessment about its impact on the population of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations has released the 2011 Revision of the World Urbanization Prospects' on April 5, 2012. The aforesaid report provides estimates of urban population on 5 year basis till 2050. As per the report, the world urban population is expected to increase by 72 per cent by 2050, from 3.6 billion in 2011 to 6.3 billion in 2050. Virtually all of the expected growth in the world population is estimated to be concentrated in the urban areas of the less developed regions, whose population is projected to increase from 2.7 billion in 2011 to 5.1 billion in 2050.

(b) Government is aware of these trends and in view of the importance of urban sector, the National Development Council (NDC) in its meeting held on July 24, 2010 decided to form a sub-committee of NDC to examine the issues concerning urbanization. The aforesaid Sub-Committee has finalized its report for placing it before the NDC. In addition, the approach paper to the twelfth plan, while noting that agglomeration and densification of economic activities in urban conglomerations stimulates economic efficiencies and provides more opportunities for earning livelihoods, has recommended that the Central Government's thrust on guiding and improving the quality of urbanization in the country must be intensified.

(c) As per the estimate by the Central Statistical Organization, in 2004-05, the contribution of urban sector in Net Domestic Product was about 52%. Various expert bodies including the High Power Expert Committee (HPEC) that was constituted by the Ministry of Urban Development, in its report submitted in March 2011 on Indian Urban Infrastructure and Services has documented international experience of correlation between urbanization and growth and has concluded that in India, cities will have to become engine of national development. However, as estimated by the Population Division of the United Nations, about 48% of Indian population would still be residing in rural areas by 2050. Hence rural areas are also expected to play an important role in economic development. Development process will have to take into account these areas as well for a balanced growth of the nation.

(d) The approach paper to the twelfth Plan recognizes that the process of urbanization is a natural process associated with growth. As per census of India, in

2011, the urban population was 31.16% of the total population. The report of the Population Division of United Nations released on April 5, 2012 has estimated that the percent of population residing in urban areas in India may rise to 42.6% and 51.7% by 2035 and 2050 respectively. However, the actual population growth will depend on many factors including the development trajectory of the country.

**Increase of budget for various plans**

†3009. SHRIPRABHAT JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has asked the Ministries to make 5 to 15 per cent increase in the budget under various plans for the year 2012-13;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that almost all the Ministries have turned a deaf ear to the suggestion of Planning Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Planning Commission had requested Ministries/Departments to submit the: Plan proposals with three alternative scenarios *viz.* with an increase of about 5 per cent 10 per cent and 15 per cent (at current prices). The Ministry's/Departments were further requested that the critical Central programmes/schemes/projects should be full provided for even in the proposal based on the assumptions of 5% increase in outlay in 2012-13 over 2011-12.

(c) to (e) No, sir. All the Ministries have submitted their Plan proposals with alternative scenarios to Planning Commission. These were the major input for the finalisation of the outlays for the Ministries/Departments in 2012-13.

**Amount to Assam under CSS**

3010. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated under Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry to Assam State during financial years 2004-10;

(b) the amount released against above allocation during above period, scheme-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the amount already spent by the Assam Government ?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.