

**Recommendations of Ashok Chawla Committee on allocation of natural resources**

\*558. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ashok Chawla Committee, set up in early 2011 to suggest a transparent and corruption free process for allocation of natural resources, has submitted its report in May, 2011 and was accepted by the GoM in October, 2011; and

(b) if so, the details of the main recommendations made therein and the measures being taken to implement the recommendations in the allocation of natural resources thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Group of Ministers (GoM) on Measures that can be taken by the Government to tackle corruption, in its meeting held on 16th June 2011, had considered the Report of Committee on Allocation of Natural Resources (CANR) and directed that the Report may be examined by the Committee of Secretaries (COS). All the 81 recommendations of the CANR were examined by the Committee of Secretaries, in its meetings held on 14th July, 2011, 9th August, 2011 and 29th September, 2011.

The GoM in its meetings held on 30th September, 2011 and 22nd February, 2012 has accepted 69 recommendations of the CANR. One recommendation was not accepted by the GoM. Eleven Recommendations of CANR are still under consideration.

(b) The details of recommendations made in the Report of the CANR is [*See Appendix 225 Annexure No. 35*]. Implementation of the CANR recommendations will be done by the concerned Ministries after obtaining due approvals.

**Definition of poverty line**

\*559. SHRI UPENDERA KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state?

(a) the definition being used by Government to define the poverty line for providing funds under different centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) whether Government has commenced the BPL Survey to identify the exact number of persons living below poverty line in this country as on date;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has any data regarding the number of families moved from BPL to APL during the last five year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) :

(a) The Ministry of Rural Development implements the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)/National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations that benefits the Below Poverty Line (BPL) population. Allocation of funds to States/UTs is made based mainly on poverty and other criteria. Planning Commission defines poverty line on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion on the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in 2005 to review the methodology for estimation of poverty.

(b) and (c) The Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC- 2011) commenced in June 2011 simultaneously for rural and urban areas and is conducted by respective States/UTs with technical and financial support from the Ministry of Rural Development to identify persons/households with specific socio-economic characteristics in the rural areas as well as in the urban areas, which will enable the determination of eligibility and entitlements for different Central Government Schemes as per a methodology to be suggested by an Expert Committee.

(d) and (e) Planning Commission has updated the poverty lines for the year 2009-10 as per the recommendations of the Tendulkar Committee using National Sample Survey (NSS) 66th round (2009-10) data of Household Consumer Expenditure Survey and released poverty estimates for 2009-10 on 19th March 2012. According to this Press Note, reduction in the numbers of BPL persons in rural areas is from 3258.1 lakh in 2004-05 to 2782.1 lakh in 2009-10. In urban areas, the reduction is from 814.1 lakh to 764.7 lakh during the same period.

#### **Allocation of funds to Bihar under NSAP**

\*560. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar has been provided Central assistance under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP);

(b) if so, the funds released during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, year-wise; and

(c) the extent to which the programme has achieved its objectives?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.