

(a) whether it is a fact that the Empowered Sub-Committee of the National Development Council (NDC) on Panchayat Raj Institutions submitted its report to the Planning Commission in June, 2008;

(b) whether it has since been submitted to the NDC for consideration and approval; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Empowered Sub-Committee (ESC) of the National Development Council (NDC) on Financial and Administrative Empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) submitted its Report in July, 2008. Ministry of Panchayati Raj furnished the set of recommendations on various measures to be taken for strengthening the Panchayats along with an updated status of the state of Panchayats with respect to the recommendations made by the ESC and also a draft NDC Resolution on the Role of Panchayats. The Planning Commission examined the draft Resolution and agreed with most of the points. However, the Planning Commission had reservations on some of the points including, inter alia, the suggestion that 2% of the allocations of Centrally Sponsored Schemes be pooled with Ministry of Panchayati Raj for building the capacity of Panchayats which would be a cumbersome exercise. It was conveyed to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj that the Draft Resolution of the NDC would have to be re-worked in the light of recent developments particularly the proposal for the initiation of the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Yojana.

Growth Rate of Country

†1773. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate in the country had been approximately 9 per cent before 2008-09;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that since then growth rate in the country is steadily declining;

(d) if so, the facts thereof and whether this decline in the growth rate can be attributed to global slowdown; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The annual growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 was more

than 9 per cent. However, the growth rate of the GDP during 2008-09 declined to 6.7 per cent due to global economic slowdown and draught like situation in many parts of the country. The Government responded to the situation by announcing stimulus packages, taking monetary and fiscal measures etc.

(c) to (e) As a result of the policy measures announced by the Government the Indian economy recovered quickly and grew at 8.4 per cent per annum during 2009-10 and 2010-11. Because of the uncertain global scenario emerging from continued Euro zone crisis coupled with inflationary pressures in the domestic economy, the advanced estimates released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) project that the GDP is likely to grow at 6.9 per cent during 2011-12. However, the macro-economic fundamentals of the economy continue to be strong and the economy is expected to bounce back to a higher growth trajectory.

IAP in Maoists Affected Districts

1774. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL :

SHRI R.C. SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is implementing Integrated Action Plan (IAP) in worst Maoists affected districts;

(b) if so, the details of the projects with the target set for those districts both State-wise and district-wise;

(c) whether the Ministry has set any monitoring mechanism regarding the implementation of these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof with a list of targets after initiation;

(e) whether Government is actively considering to extend the programme in some more disciplines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) An Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for 60 Selected Tribal and Backward Districts was approved by the Government on 25.11.2010 with a block grant of Rs. 25 crore and Rs. 30 crore per district for 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively. Recently, 18 more districts have been included under IAP taking the total to 78 districts.

(b) As per the guidelines of the scheme, the funds are placed at the disposal of the committee headed by the District Collector and consisting of the Superintendent of Police of the District and the District Forest Officer. The District-level Committee has the flexibility to spend the amount for development schemes according to need, as assessed by it. The State Governments and the District Collectors have also been