

- (c) whether the working group has submitted its report; and
- (d) if so, the recommendations made by the working group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) to (d) As a part of the 12th plan formulation exercise, the Planning Commission constituted a working group of Railways under the chairmanship of the Chairman, Railway Board on 29.04.2011 to examine a number of issues including the need to set up a Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority. The working group submitted its report to the Planning Commission on 05.03.2012 recommending that such authority should not be set up.

UNDP Survey on Poverty

1771. SHRI R.C. SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per the recently released UNDP Survey, India has 645 million i.e. 55 per cent of poor;
- (b) the details of criteria adopted in arriving at this figure;
- (c) the details of indicators taken up for study; and
- (d) whether the above poverty figures are not double the figure of Government of India's figure of 29 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Human Development Report 2010 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 4th November, 2010 has introduced a new measure of poverty named Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The MPI covers multidimensional deprivation suffered by the poor broadly under health, education and standard of living irrespective of income or consumption expenditure levels. Based on the above parameters Headcount Ratio of MPI for India has been estimated at 55.4 per cent based on the data between 2000 and 2008 in respect of various indicators.

The MPI is composed of ten indicators namely, child mortality and nutrition (health); years of schooling and child enrollment (education); and electricity, flooring, drinking water, sanitation, cooking fuel and assets (standard of living).

Planning Commission's estimate of head count ratio which is based on consumption expenditure as a criterion and stands at 37.2% during 2004-05 is not comparable with the head count ratio of multidimensional poverty of UNDP.

Report of Empowered Sub-Committee on PRIs

1772. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(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