

(b) Clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forest and concurrence of State Finance Department for the project have been obtained.

(c) As per the information furnished by the State Government of Bihar, the budget provisions for Financial Year 2011-12 and 2012-13 are Rs. 12.45 Cr. and Rs. 152.09 Cr., respectively.

(d) and (e) Durgawati Reservoir Project was originally approved by the planning Commission in May, 1975. However, As per information furnished by the State Government of Bihar, the project is scheduled for completion by March, 2014.

Identification of priority households

*359. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the methodology to be used to identify the priority household in the draft Food Security Bill, 2010 would be the BPL Survey, 2011 or the Socio Economic and Caste Census, 2011;

(b) whether Government has taken into account the concerns voiced by Civil Society Organisations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for undertaking a BPL survey when a similar effort has been undertaken by the Registrar General and the Census Commissioner of India;

(e) whether there is any mechanism in place to ensure that all BPL families receive the specified amount of foodgrain every month; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The National Food Security Bill, 2011, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2011, seeks to cover upto 75% of the rural population (with at least 46% belonging to the priority households) and upto 50% of the urban population (with at least 28% belonging to the priority households) for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The Bill provides that within the State-wise number of persons belonging to the priority households and general households, determined by the Central Government, identification of households shall be done by the State Governments or such other agency, in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Central Government. The methodology for identification of households has not been arrived at.

(b) to (d) The Government has launched Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) in June, 2011 covering (i) BPL Census in rural areas (ii) BPL census in urban areas and (iii) caste enumeration. The Ministry of Rural Development is coordinating

the on-going SECC, 2011 which is a door to door census of rural and urban households in the country carried out by State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations to collect information on a number of socio-economic indicators. The census is being carried out in coordination with Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India.

Methodologies for identification of BPL households in rural and urban areas were decided on the basis of recommendations of Expert Groups constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena and Dr. S.R. Hashim respectively. The recommendations of the Expert Group for identification of BPL households in rural areas were discussed with State Governments/UT Administrations, the concerned Central Ministries, the Planning Commission and other experts. On the basis of suggestions of experts, a pre-testing of methodology through a pilot study was conducted, results of which were discussed with experts and States/UTs to arrive at the methodology to be adopted.

(e) and (f) TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of Central Government and State/UT Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto designated depots of Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for lifting and distributing the allocated foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible card holders through the fair price shops are that of the State/UT Governments. However, in order to improve functioning of TPDS, the Central Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of Below Poverty Line and Antyodaya Anna Yojana families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops, ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, adoption of revised Model Citizen's charter, introduction of new technologies such as computerization of TPDS operations at various levels and improving the efficiency of fair price shop operations. Various aspects of implementation of TPDS are also reviewed during meetings/conferences with States/UTs and advisories are issued.

Demand of power

*360. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of power is constantly increasing leading to an acute shortage in the country;

(b) if so, the details of demand and supply of power during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;