

of people over time and to the decline of absolute poverty and destitution. Over the years the sharp edges of acute poverty have been blunted as a result of various programmes and policies of the Government as also there has been a reduction in the percentage of people living below poverty line.

### **Steps to increase GDP Growth**

259. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether to achieve a GDP growth of 8.5 per cent, the country's economy would have to maintain a farm growth rate of 4 per cent along with manufacturing growth at the rate of 10.5 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether to achieve the above growth, the country needs to generate 25 million new work opportunities in the non-farm sector and raise the green cover by one million hectare each year; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) As per the Approach Paper to the Twelfth Five Year Plan approved by the National Development Council (NDC), the economy is likely to grow at an average annual growth rate of 9 per cent during the 12th Plan period (2012-17). This 9% Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth target requires a growth target of 4% in agriculture sector and 9.8% growth in manufacturing sector. The Approach Paper states that given the limited capacity of the services sector to absorb most of the job seekers, the manufacturing sector will have to provide at least 100 million additional jobs if the growth is to be inclusive. For this purpose a National Manufacturing Plan has been developed for translating various components of the policy into desired outcomes. The Plan seeks to instill dynamism in the domestic manufacturing by catalyzing its growth through increased value addition, removing bottlenecks and providing enabling business environment. One of the key instruments to catalyze the growth of manufacturing will be establishment of National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs) to be developed in the nature of green field industrial townships, benchmarked with the best manufacturing hubs in the world. Further, the Approach Paper proposes a target of raising one million hectare of plantation annually. As raising plantation is a labour intensive activity (normally 60% labour component and 40% material component), it is bound to increase the employment opportunities particularly in rural and remote areas. The

Government proposes a Green India Mission in the Twelfth Plan to increase/improve the green cover by 5 million hectare.

**Target to bring down the poverty level**

†260. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the targets had been fixed to bring down the poverty level by 2015 in the country;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard and details of the targets;
- (c) whether there is an apprehension at international level on achieving these targets; and
- (d) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of Government regarding achieving the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The UNDP's Millennium Development Goal relating to poverty is to "Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the Percentage of Population below the National Poverty Line". This implies reduction of poverty ratio from about 47.5 percent in 1990 to about 23.75 percent by 2015. As per the latest estimates of poverty made by the Planning Commission, the poverty ratio in 2009-10 is 29.8%. With continued growth in GDP and an equally robust agricultural growth, the poverty ratio is expected to be close to the MDG target by 2015.

**Amount disbursed by BCFDC in AP**

261. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of amount disbursed by the Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation to the backward people in the State of Andhra Pradesh under various schemes during the last ten years, year-wise, scheme-wise and district-wise;
- (b) the details of comparative figures relating to other States during the same period, year-wise scheme-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether the Ministry is planning giving any special emphasis in the Twelfth Plan:

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.