

development programmes/schemes in operation in the country are : (i) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), (ii) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), (iii) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), (iv) National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), (v) Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS), (vi) Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), (vii) Mid Day Meal (MDM), (viii) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), (ix) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), (x) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), (xi) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), (xii) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), (xiii) Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission (RGDWM), and (xiv) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

The specific scheme to remove the regional imbalance is the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). The BRGF has two components, namely, (i) District Component covering 272 backward districts in 27 States (including 22 districts approved for coverage in June, 2012), and (ii) State Component which, in its present form, includes the Special Plan for Bihar, Special Plan for the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts of Odisha, Special Plan for West Bengal, Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for Selected Tribal and Backward Districts and the Special Package to implement drought mitigation strategies in Bundelkhand region.

#### **Auction of natural resources**

1337. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has given a mandate that all natural resources should be allocated only through auction; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Subsequent to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Judgment dated 2 February, 2012, the Government moved a Presidential Reference dated 12th April, 2012 for the consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which *inter-alia* included the following question:

"Whether the only permissible method for disposal of all natural resources across all sectors and in all circumstances is by the conduct of auctions?"

#### **Methodology for estimating poverty**

1338. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently set up an expert technical group to review the Tendulkar Committee methodology for estimating poverty and overhaul the norms in keeping with the present day prices;

(b) if so, the composition of the technical group and by when it is likely to submit its report to Government;

(c) whether the experts panel has been asked to examine the issue of divergence between consumption estimates based on National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) methodology and new consumer price indices launched by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) for rural and urban areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) Planning Commission, in June 2012, has constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan to "Review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty".

The composition of the Group is as under.

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|----|--|--------------------|
| 1. | Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman<br>Prime Minister's Economy Advisory Council       | Chairman           |
| 2. | Dr. Mahendra Dev, Director,<br>Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research | Member             |
| 3. | Dr. K. Sundaram,<br>Former Professor, Delhi School of Economics                | Member             |
| 4. | Dr. Mahesh Vyas, MD & CEO<br>Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy              | Member             |
| 5. | K.L. Datta,<br>Former Adviser (Perspective Planning),<br>Planning Commission   | Member<br>Convener |

The Terms of Reference of the Group are as follows:

- i. To comprehensively review the existing methodology of estimation of poverty and examine whether the poverty line should be fixed solely in terms of a consumption basket or whether other criteria are also relevant, and if so, whether the two can be effectively combined to evolve a basis for estimation of poverty in rural and urban areas.

- ii. To examine the issue of divergence between consumption estimates based on the NSSO methodology and those emerging from the National Accounts aggregates; and to suggest a methodology for updating consumption poverty lines using the new consumer price indices launched by the CSO for rural and urban areas state-wise.
- iii. To review alternative methods of estimation of poverty which may be in use in other countries, including their procedural aspects; and indicate whether on this basis, a particular method can be evolved for empirical estimation of poverty in India, including procedures for updating it over time and across states.
- iv. To recommend how the estimates of poverty, as evolved above, should be linked to eligibility and entitlements for schemes and programmes under the Government of India.

The Expert Group will submit its report to the Planning Commission within a year.

#### **Scheme to maintain de-addiction centres**

1339. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what schemes are undertaken by Government to establish and maintain de-addiction centres;
- (b) total budgetary allocation for such schemes over the past three years; and
- (c) the details of the expenditure and achievements under the schemes, for the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing a "Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse and for Social Defence Services" under which financial assistance is provided, *inter-alia* to Non-Governmental Organizations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies etc. for running Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCAs) to provide composite/integrated services for the rehabilitation of the addicts. In addition, the Ministry of