

*"while moving away from the calorie norms, the proposed poverty lines have been validated by checking the adequacy of actual private expenditure per capita near the poverty lines on food, education and health by comparing them with normative expenditures consistent with nutritional, educational and health outcomes."*

Following Tendulkar Committee methodology, the Planning Commission has computed poverty lines for the year 2009-10 based on the latest data of large scale survey on household consumer expenditure collected by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in its 66th round (2009-10). These have been released through a Press Note issued on 19th March, 2012. The poverty line at all India level for 2009-10 is estimated as MPCE of Rs. 673 for rural areas and Rs. 860 for urban areas.

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 terms of reference of the Expert Group includes *inter-alia* how the estimates of poverty should be linked to eligibility and entitlements for schemes and programmes under the Government of India.

#### **Project Clearance Board**

1331. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly established Project Clearance Board has the authority to clear all infrastructure and energy related projects;

(b) if so, whether the Board takes up the functions of all the Ministries that are involved in the projects; and

(c) if not, the criteria on the basis of which projects are brought forth to the Project Clearance Board for clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Government has decided to set up a Project Clearance Board along the lines of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary for review and issue of one-time clearances, including security clearance. This Board will include representatives from the Ministries of Home, Defence, Environment & Forests, Commerce, Coal, Department of Space and other infrastructure and energy related Ministries/ Departments.

(b) and (c) It will meet regularly on a monthly basis to review the status of clearances for energy and infrastructure projects and expedite issuing of security and other clearances. Ministries would report to this Board the status of issuing of clearances after following their internal due diligence processes.

**PPP in infrastructure project**

1332. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is increasingly using Public Private Partnership (PPP) mainly in infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the response of the public sector so far as infrastructure projects are concerned;

(c) whether this policy has been successful; and

(d) if so, the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The public sector will continue to play a dominant role in building infrastructure. However, the total resources required to meet the infrastructure deficit exceed the capacity of the public sector. It is, therefore, necessary to attract private investment through appropriate forms public private partnership to meet the overall investment requirement. In some sectors such as irrigation and water resources management, construction of rural roads, capital dredging at major ports, as well as in certain economically or situationally disadvantaged regions, the bulk of the investment in infrastructure would have to come from the public sector. In sectors such as highways, airports, ports, railways and urban transit systems, PPPs are increasingly becoming the preferred mode of project implementation.

(c) and (d) The PPP policy has been quite successful in India in channelising private investment in infrastructure sector. During the Eleventh Plan the private investment in infrastructure is anticipated at 37% of the total investment against 22% achieved in the Tenth Plan.

**Bharat Nirman Yojana**

†1333. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.