persons below poverty line decreased in the state of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand.

(b) The decrease or increase of the below poverty line families in a particular States depends on multiple factors like pace of economic development, agricultural growth, levels of population growth rate, etc, including the effective implementation of various programmes of the Government.

Direct benefit transfer in rural areas

3677. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Direct Benefit Transfer in rural areas would involve biometric verification by means of UID;

(b) whether Government has taken note of the fact that biometric machines are not able to read the finger prints of labourers and older citizens;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the corrective steps being planned; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Along with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), pension schemes of National Social Assistance Scheme (NSAP) has been identified for Direct Benefit Transfers. For the roll out of DBT, the Ministry is required to digitize its beneficiary database and seed them with Aadhar numbers. In MGNREGA, focus of DBT is to credit the accounts of the MGNREGA beneficiaries through e-payments. However, with the implementation of Business Correspondent Model (BC Model) biometric authentication may also be done.

(b) to (d) This Ministry has not received any complaints on the difficulty in registering the fingerprints of labourers and older citizens.

Chirag movement in Maharashtra

3678. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Chirag Movement in Maharashtra in its rural sector;

(b) whether the above project is a voluntary-funded project in this region;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a solar-based project;

(e)   if so, the details thereof; and

(f)   the action plan to launch such projects in other rural areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

National Rural Livelihood Mission

3679. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government has launched a National Rural Livelihood Mission;

(b)   if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   the details of allocation, target and achievement under the Mission during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in a mission mode in a phased manner for targeted and time bound delivery of results. NRLM's mission is to reduce poverty by enabling the poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled waged employment opportunities resulting in appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong and sustainable grassroots institutions of the poor. NRLM aims to reach out to all the rural poor families (BPL families) and link them to sustainable livelihoods opportunities. It will nurture them till they come out of poverty and enjoy a decent quality of life. The salient features of the NRLM are:

(i)   at least one member from each identified rural poor household, preferably a women, to be brought under the Self Help Group (SHG) network in a time-bound manner, the ultimate target being full coverage of BPL families;

(ii)   setting up of strong institutions of the poor in the form of SHGs and their .Producers Groups etc. federations for reducing dependence on external agencies;

(iii) a multi pronged approach envisaged for continuous capacity building of the targeted families, SHGs, their federations, government functionaries, bankers, Non Government Organization (NGOs) and other key stakeholders;