

**Purchasing capacity of rural poor**

126. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as per the National Sample Survey, bottom 5 per cent of rural poor in the country, lives on just Rs. 17 a day when compared to their counterparts in urban areas who spent Rs. 22 a day;

(b) if so how the Ministry looks at it; and

(c) what efforts are being made to increase the purchase capacity of poor people in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) As per National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), 68th Round (July, 2011-June 2012), consumer expenditure data published in Key Indicators of Household Consumer Expenditure in India (NSS KI (68/1.0) the per capita monthly consumption expenditure of bottom 5% of the population in rural area is Rs. 521.44 in 2011-12 and of the urban area is Rs. 700.50. These monthly consumption expenditure converted into rupees per day work out to Rs. 17.38 in rural area and Rs. 23.35 in urban area. These are derived by the NSSO using Modified Mixed Recall Period (MMRP).

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing through the State Governments and UT Administration the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)/Ajeevika to generate employment and sustainable livelihood for the rural poor resulting in increase in the purchasing capacity of the poor people in the rural areas.

**Railway projects under MGNREGA**

127. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is allowing to get some of the railway projects to be taken up under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that stiff and stringent rules of MGNREGA are impeding the railway project's implementation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by Government in this regard for smooth implementation and completion of railway projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The category of works taken up under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is defined in Para IB, Schedule I of the Act. Execution of railway projects is not amongst the list of such permissible works under MGNREGA. However, in accordance with the provisions of Para IB (xvi) Schedule I of the Act, the Central Government can add any other work to the list of permissible work. A request for executing unskilled labour portion involved in some Railway projects is under consideration of the Government.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Irregularities in MGNREGA**

128. SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether during 2007-12, serious irregularities have been reported in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in various States resulting in decrease in job days;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether 4.33 lakh job cards have been found having no photograph of job card holders in around six States;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;