

methodology to estimate the poverty line and the poverty ratio at national and state level.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission, in June 2012, 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 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 term of the Expert Group has been extended up to 5 June, 2014.

#### **Assessment on implementation of DBT**

1486. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Dr. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether government has conducted any assessment of the implementation of the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) till date and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether any complaints have been received in terms of the implementation of the Direct Benefits Transfer mechanism; and if so, the details thereof and action taken thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) In order to assess the progress of implementation of DBT, a DBT MIS has been put in place. The concerned Ministries/Departments are required to provide scheme and district wise information on *inter-alia*, the number of beneficiaries, number of beneficiaries with bank account, number of beneficiaries with Aadhaar and bank account and number of beneficiaries with bank account and databases seeded with Aadhaar onto the MIS in a prescribed format. The DBT MIS is monitored on a regular basis. Review meetings with the concerned Ministries, UIDAI, RGI, Banks etc. and video conferences with District Collectors and State Nodal Officers are held from time to time to assess the progress of implementation of DBT in the identified schemes.

(b) No complaints have been received regarding issues being faced in implementation of DBT.

#### **Increase in families below poverty line**

1487. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of families living below poverty line has increased during the last ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring such population of the country at par with the other?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of people living below the poverty line from the large sample surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the Tendulkar Committee methodology. Based on this, the estimates of the number of people living below the poverty line are available for the years 2004-05 and 2011-12. As per this, the number of persons living below the poverty line in the