

Poor population in country

1488. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether at present the population of poor people in India is more than fifty crore;
- (b) whether according to the World Bank's latest report, India accounts for a 33 per cent of the world's poor; and
- (c) if so, the effective steps Government is taking for containing the population and for consolidating Bharat Nirman?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the number of persons living below the poverty line in a year from the poverty ratio and the estimated population of the year following the methodology contained in the report of the Tendulkar Committee. The poverty ratio is derived from the Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and the poverty line. The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure has been collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. The number of persons living below poverty line for 2011-12 has been computed following the Tendulkar methodology and these have been released through a Press Note issued on 22nd July 2013. According to this Press Note, the population below poverty line is estimated as 27 crore for 2011-12.

(b) According to World Bank draft note entitled "The State of the Poor: Where are the Poor and where are the Poorest?", prepared by Pedro Olinto and Hiroki Uematsu, India accounts for 33 percent of world's poor population in 2010.

(c) Government has initiated various measures to reduce poverty in the country through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes such as: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), etc. All other policy initiatives of the Government which have led to higher GDP growth in the country have individually and collectively contributed to raising the living standards of people over time and to the decline of absolute poverty.

Bharat Nirman Programme focuses on six components of rural infrastructure namely, Rural Drinking water, Housing, Irrigation, Rural Roads, Electrification, Rural Telephony. In order to improve the pace of implementation of this scheme, steps taken by the Government include (i) enhanced budgetary support (ii) strengthening institutional capacity (iii) augmentation of contracting capacity (iv) pro-active action for getting forest and environment clearance and (v) continuous monitoring of the physical and financial achievements under the different schemes by nodal Central Ministries/Departments.

Infrastructure development in Maharashtra

1489. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether infrastructure development in Maharashtra has come to a standstill for the past few months with various Departments sitting on projects worth nearly Rs. 13,000 crore;
- (b) if so, the details of the projects stalled; and
- (c) whether the PMO give a direction to the concerned Department to expedite the files and emphasis on the cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) to (c) No Sir. A number of infrastructure projects are being implemented/ in progress in Maharashtra. The PMO has directed all Ministries/Departments to nominate a Nodal Officer each, of the rank of a Joint Secretary or above, to report on a weekly basis on the progress of their department's projects (s). Important infrastructure projects under implementation in Maharashtra include Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Mumbai Trans Harbor Link (MTHL), Mumbai Metro Line 3, Multi Model Corridor (MMC), Western Freeway, Mumbai Water Supply Scheme, JNNURM Buses and Hadron Beam Therapy Facility.

Criteria for poverty line

†1490. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has assumed criteria of poverty line for poor residing in urban areas as Rs. 33 and for the poor in rural areas it is Rs. 27; and
- (b) if so, the basis thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.