

districts of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Funds are released to the concerned State Governments for implementing schemes relating to drought mitigation strategies.

The Government of India launched 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikarn Yojana (RGGVY)—Programme for creation of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification in April 2005 for providing access to electricity to rural households in the country including rural and backward areas. Under the scheme, 648 projects including 39 supplementary projects during Tenth and Eleventh Plans were sanctioned covering electrification of 1,12,795 un/de-electrified villages (UEV), 3,96,336 partially electrified villages (PEV), 72553 habitations and release of free electricity connections to 274.50 lakh BPL households with a project cost of Rs. 32388.6 crore. So far, the electrification works in 1,06,694 UE villages, 2,89,623 PE villages have been completed and free electricity connections to 206 lakh BPL households have been released under the scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

#### **Poverty in Country**

2705. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that acute poverty exists in India;

(b) if so, the actual number of poor in the country;

(c) whether 'shelter' also find a place in poverty components such as health, education and food;

(d) if not, whether extreme reaction to the definition of poverty are likely to catapult Government's calculation, the reasons thereof;

(e) the latest cut-off line marked by Government's think tank in this regard; and

(f) the final benchmark now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates poverty from the

large sample surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) every 5 years. The latest results are available for the survey conducted by NSSO in its 66th round (2009-10). For the year 2009-10, as per Tendulkar methodology, the number of poor in the country is estimated as 35.47 crore which is 29.8% of the total population of the country.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission defines poverty line on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. The poverty line takes into account expenditure on food and non-food items. Non-food items include the expenditure on health, education, transport etc. besides shelter.

(e) and (f) Using Tendulkar methodology, the Planning Commission has estimated the poverty line in 2009-10, as MPCE of Rs. 673 for rural areas and Rs. 860 for urban areas, which amounts to monthly consumption expenditure of Rs. 3,365 in rural areas and Rs. 4,300 in urban areas for a family of five at 2009-10 prices.

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". In order to ensure the contemporary relevance of the poverty line and to ensure that suitable weightage is given to different parameters in computing the poverty line consistent with the current ground realities the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rangarajan has been given comprehensive terms of reference.

#### **Increase in GDP of States**

2706. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of some of the States of India had increased more, compared to the national average, during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of the States and their GDP, and the response of Government thereto;

(c) whether this increase in per capita GDP of the States results in reduction in the number of persons living below poverty line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?