

2004-05 to 21.9% in 2011-12. Between 2004-05 and 2011-12, the number of poor persons in the country has come down from 407 million to 270 million.

(c) to (e) The Planning Commission is the nodal agency in the Government to estimate the number and percentage of people living below the poverty line at the National Level and at State levels for rural and urban areas separately. The methodology for estimation of poverty followed by the Planning Commission has been based on the recommendations made by the experts in the field. The present poverty line is based on the methodology recommended by the Expert Group under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in 2009. The Tendulkar poverty line actually raised the poverty level compared to what was in use prior to 2004. However, it is true that there has been criticism from various quarters that the line is still too low. Responding to this criticism 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.

Construction of all weather roads in Bihar

1694. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of km. of all weather roads that have been constructed/upgraded in Bihar out of total 20,100 km. of such roads constructed during 2012-13, as claimed by UPA in their recent booklet;

(b) the number of km. of new roads that have been added to the rural road networks in Bihar out of total 2 lakh km. of such roads added as claimed by UPA in their recent booklet; and

(c) the number of km. of highways built or upgraded in last nine years in Bihar out of total 17,394 km. of such roads built or upgraded by the National Highways Authority of India as claimed by UPA in their recent booklet along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA): (a) and (b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the Country. The length of National Highways constructed/upgraded in Bihar during the year 2012-13 is 284.49 km.

(c) The length of National Highways constructed/upgraded by NHAI in Bihar during the last 9 years *i.e.* upto 2012-13 and including current year till date is 1175 km. (206 km. Golden Quadrilateral + 464 km. East West Corridor + 396 km. NHDP Phase-III + 84 km. NHDP Phase-IV + 25 km. NHDP Phase-V).