

(c) whether any other Indian or foreign based studies resulted in upgrading the rating; and

(d) if improved, India's positions in the context of ratings of other South-Asian nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The ratings awarded in the report of the Hong-Kong based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd. represents a point of view and the Government does not take cognizance of rating/ranking of Indian bureaucracy by private or other consultancies.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

#### **Population below poverty line**

2410. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that around 25 per cent of population is living below poverty line in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction Government thereto;

(c) whether the economic policy of the country is responsible for a gap in percentage growth of income of the poor and the rich in the country over the years, if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the studies and data of last five years reflecting no such income disparity?

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) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. These surveys are normally conducted on quinquennial basis. 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 poverty lines and poverty ratios for 2011-12 computed following the extant Tendulkar methodology have been released through a Press Note issued on 22nd July, 2013. According to this Press Note, the percentage of persons below the Poverty Line in 2011-12 has been estimated as 25.7% in rural areas, 13.7% in urban areas and 21.9% for the

country as a whole. The respective ratios for the rural and urban areas were 41.8% and 25.7% and 37.2% for the country as a whole in 2004-05. It was 50.1% in rural areas, 31.8% in urban areas and 45.3% for the country as a whole in 1993-94.

During the 11-year period 1993-94 to 2004-05, the average decline in the poverty ratio was 0.74 percentage points per year. It accelerated to 2.18 percentage points per year during the 7-year period 2004-05 to 2011-12. The rate of decline in the poverty ratio during the most recent 7-year period 2004-05 to 2011-12 was about three times of that experienced in the 11-year period 1993-94 to 2004-05.

(c) and (d) The gap between different expenditure classes of the population in terms of per capita consumption expenditure is measured by the Lorenz ratio. The Lorenz Ratios are estimated from the household consumption expenditure data collected by NSSO. The Lorenz ratio in rural areas is observed to be almost same in 2004-05 and 2011-12 at 0.27 and 0.28 respectively. In the urban areas, the Lorenz ratio is 0.35 in 2004-05 and 0.37 in 2011-12. It shows that during this period the gap in percentage growth of income of the poor and the rich in the country has not increased significantly.

However, reduction of economic disparities between the rich and the poor has been one of the primary policy objectives of the development planning in India. The Eleventh Five Year Plan adopted the strategy of inclusive growth to ensure that the benefits of growth flows proportionately more to the poor, weaker and marginalized sections of the society. The Government is implementing a number of programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Total Sanitation Campaign, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) etc. towards this end. In addition, implementation of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is one of the initiatives to strengthen the social security. These interventions are expected to yield better results over time in terms of reduction in the gap between rich and poor and overall balanced development in the country.

#### **Unspent funds of flagship programmes**

2411. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of money has been lying unspent in many of the flagship programmes of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and