

(b) whether Government intends to continue with the vision of the Twelfth Five Year Plan *i.e.* Faster, Sustainable and More Inclusive Growth; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government proposes to realize this vision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIINDERJIT SINGH RAO): (a) The vision of the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) was inclusive and sustainable growth. The Plan had outlined many strategies and policies to ensure that the benefit of the growth reaches all the sections of the society including poor and marginalised sections. The growth target for the Eleventh Plan envisaged an annual average growth rate of nine percent of GDP. The break-up of sectoral target and achievements during Eleventh Plan are given below:

<i>Sectoral Growth Rates (in %) (At Factor Cost, 2004-05 prices)</i>				
Component	Agriculture	Industry	Services	GDP
Eleventh Plan Target (2007-12)	4.0	10-11	09-11	9.0
Eleventh Plan Realization	4.1	7.7	9.4	8.0
Twelfth Plan Target (2012-17)	4.0	7.6	9.0	8.0

Source: Twelfth Plan Document and Central Statistics Office (CSO)

An important indicator of inclusive growth is reduction in the number of people below poverty line. Based on the NSSO figure and using the methodology recommended by Tendulkar Committee, there has been reduction in Poverty from 37.2% of the population in 2004-05 to 21.9% of the population in 2011-12.

(b) and (c) The broad vision of the Twelfth Plan is 'Faster, Sustainable, and more Inclusive Growth'. The multi dimensional objectives are envisaged to be achieved in areas of Economic Growth; Poverty and Employment; Education; Health; Infrastructure including Rural Infrastructure; Environment and Sustainability and Service Delivery. The Plan relies on an extensive range of Government Programmes, with increased participation of States/UTs and other developmental agencies. The Plan has also recommended Sectoral allocation of Plan funds. While preparing annual budget, the recommendations of the Twelfth Plan, subject to actual availability of resources and emerging priorities in different sectors have been kept in mind.

Gap between growth of rural and urban sectors

2385. SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gap between the rural and urban sectors is ever widening as far as development and growth are concerned, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether there are serious disparities in primary education and primary health facilities provided to urban and rural people; and the measures taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO): (a) and (b) The difference between rural and urban per capita income is a crucial economic parameter to measure the rural urban disparity which has implication for other socio-economic disparities that are evidenced in various human development indicators such as those pertaining to education attainment, health status, etc. The information in respect of per capita income (per capita Net Domestic Product) separately for rural and urban areas at current prices is available only for the base years of the National Accounts Statistics. Therefore, estimates of annual per-capita income (Net Domestic Product) separately for rural and urban areas are available for the years 1970-71, 1980-81, 1993-94, 1999-2000 and 2004-05. Based on the estimates for the latest two years, the ratio of per capita income in the urban area to that of rural area has declined from 2.82 times in 1999-2000 to 2.69 times in 2004-05 reflecting a marginal decline in rural-urban gap. The rural-urban gap has also narrowed down over the years in respect of indicators such as literacy rate, Infant mortality rate (IMR), etc. The rural-urban gap in the literacy rate has come down from 21.18% points in 2001 to 16.07% points in 2011. Similarly, IMR has come down from 72 per thousand live births in 2001 to 46 per thousand in 2012 in rural areas and from 42 to 28 in urban areas during the same period as per Sample Registration System (SRS) of Registrar General of India (RGI). Thus, the rural-urban gap in IMR has reduced from 30 per thousand live birth in 2001 to 18 in 2012. However, as per the National Health Profile (NHP), 2013, Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), DGHS, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, population served per bed in rural areas is 4248, while population served per bed in urban areas is 872.

Reduction of rural and urban disparities has always been the priority of the Government's development policy. The strategy has been to generate employment opportunities in rural areas, develop rural infrastructure, provide better access to health, education, drinking water, sanitation, etc. in order to bring a tangible improvement in standard of living and quality of life of the rural masses. The Government has launched a number of programmes towards this end. Some of the major programmes include: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), etc. Some of the flagship schemes like the SSA and MDMS have been very conducive in reducing the rural and urban disparities. There are no disparities in rural

– urban schools for providing nutritional support to children or in infrastructure like kitchen shade, storage, utensils, cook-cum-helper etc. under MDMS. Moreover, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), flagship programme under the health sector has been launched to provide effective healthcare to the rural population throughout the country.

Nature of Planning Commission

2386. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to scrap Planning Commission;
- (b) if not, whether there is any plan to rationalise the present form of Planning Commission;
- (c) what is the role Planning Commission is playing presently under the Constitution;
- (d) to what extent advise/directions of the Planning Commission is binding on the States; and
- (e) whether any State Government raised any objections to the role presently played by the Commission; and if so, the nature of objections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is, at present, no proposal under consideration of the Government for scrapping and rationalizing the present form of Planning Commission.

(c) Article 77 of the Constitution refers to Conduct of Business of the Government of India. Its sub-section (3) provides that the President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business. In exercise of these powers, Government of India has framed Allocation of Business Rules 1961. The business allocated to the Planning Commission *vide* entry No. 49 of the aforesaid Rules, as amended from time to time, is given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) Planning Commission renders advice to State Governments on economic matters. Such arrangements include discussion of Annual Plans of the State with the concerned State Governments at different levels including the level of the Chief Minister with the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. Recommendations of the Planning Commissions on economic matters are contained in the five year Plans. After approval of these plans by the Cabinet, they are also considered by the National Development Council which is chaired by the Honourable Prime Minister and comprises *inter alia* Chief Ministers of all the States and Administrators of Union Territories as members.