

five percentage points during the Tenth Plan and another 10 per cent during the Eleventh Plan would still leave more than 11 per cent population of about 130 million people below the poverty line, in 2012;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that many State Governments have demanded higher allocation of funds for rural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) According to the Tenth Five Year Plan document "the mandated reductions in the poverty rate of 5 percentage points during the Tenth Plan and another 10 percentage points during the Eleventh Plan, as stipulated in the Approach Paper, will still leave more than 11 per cent of the population, or about 130 million people, below the poverty line in 2012". The Union Government has been making every effort to reduce the poverty rate as envisaged in the 10th Plan document. It is estimated that with a proper sectoral and regional focus, it may be possible to reduce the poverty rate by nearly 7 percentage points over the Tenth Plan period, if the growth target of 8 per cent is achieved through the State-wise break down that has been drawn up on consultation with the States.

(c) Yes, Sir. Some of the State Government demanded more allocation for the effective implementation of rural development schemes.

Identification of true backward districts in the country

1576. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the true backward districts in the country where economic growth rate is near zero;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof, zone-wise; and

(c) the action taken to improve the socio-economic conditions of people living below the poverty line in these districts which are mostly flood prone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development has not identified the true backward districts in the

country where economic growth rate is near zero. However, the Planning Commission has identified Backward District under the Scheme of "Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana". The Backward District Initiative covers 100 backward district and 32 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism. The identifications of backward districts has been made on the basis of an index of backwardness comprising three parameters with equal weightage to each, namely, (i) value of output per agricultural worker; (ii) agriculture wage rate; and (iii) percentage of SC/ST population of the districts. The number of zone-wise backward districts is as under:

Zone	No. of Districts	
North	33	*
South	16	
East	26	
West	12	
Central	13	
TOTAL	100	

(c) Special Central assistance @ Rs. 15 crore per year will be provided for 3 years for approved Schemes to those districts to address the problem of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and to fill critical gaps in social infrastructure. The ongoing Schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development will be implemented as such including wage-employment, self employment, rural, housing, rural roads, area development programmes, rural drinking water supply and sanitation etc., in these districts and also in the districts which are mostly flood prone.

Construction of toilets for ladies In villages

1577. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Development Ministry has a scheme for construction of toilets for ladies in the villages of the country;

(b) what is the cost of these toilets and whether has any standard toilet for use by ladies in rural areas been developed; and