

[19 July, 2004]

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number and percentage of Below Poverty Line population in Urban areas, as estimated by the Planning Commission in 1999-2000, is 670.07 lakh, being 23.62% of the total Urban population. As per the Census of India, 2001, the slum population and its percentage in 26 one million plus cities is 165.65 lakh, being 23.4% of the total population of these cities (708.14 lakh).

(b) Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation has been implementing, through the State/Union Territory Governments, the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), a Centrally Sponsored Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme, on all India basis, with effect from 01.12.1997 with a view to providing gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor through setting up of self-employment ventures and by providing wage employment for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The programme has been continued in the 10th Five Year Plan.

To ameliorate conditions of the urban poor/slum dwellers/Economically Weaker Sections, in providing housing, sanitation and basic infrastructural facilities the order programmes, such as, Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) and National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) are vigorously implemented.

#### **Courses on Environment and Forestry**

\*193. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce courses on environment and forestry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that discussions have been held with the CBSE and the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to have such courses in schools all over the country;

(d) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken; and

(e) the time schedule for introducing such courses or subjects dealing with forestry, environment sciences and wildlife?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) National Education Policy lays down that education will be based on a Framework having a common core including *inter alia* protection of environment. In fact, each of the three curricula-released in 1975, 1988 and 2000, incorporated environmental education. Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) introduced a scheme (1988-89)—environmental orientation to school education and has assisted States and NGOs. 48 NGOs, too, have benefited with a total grant of 13.83 crore w.e.f. from 1977-98 to promote environmental education. NCERT has, in June 2004, published syllabus on 'environment education in schools' after having discussions with organisations like Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and States. The States have been asked to adapt/adopt the syllabus. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has circulated a 'Syllabus for Environmental Studies' for undergraduate courses for its compulsory implementation in all the Universities/Colleges of India.

#### **Financial Crisis in Prasar Bharati**

\*194. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati is facing an acute shortage of funds due to decline in its revenue earning;

(b) if so, the details regarding the revenue earned and expenditure incurred by the Prasar Bharati during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to enable the Prasar Bharati to overcome the financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir, However, the details of Grants/Loan provided by the Government, revenue generated viz. Internal Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) and expenditure incurred by Prasar Bharati during the last three years are given below: