

(b) whether HHEC is in a very difficult financial position and have sought the help of the Ministry for financial support in order to clear the margin money of the company; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the blocked margin money would be paid to the company?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) As on 31.03.2017, as per Book of Accounts of Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited (HHEC), an amount of ₹ 2,47,80,709.69 is payable to M/s SMC Comtrade Ltd. (SMC). An amount of ₹ 12.45 crores payable to bullion parties including SMC has been withheld by HHEC as CBI is investigating a similar case of M/s Edelweiss Commodities Ltd. (ECL). The amount payable to these bullion parties including SMC is contingent upon the outcome of the case.

(b) No Sir. No payment of margin money is pending to any private party.

(c) In view of 'b' above, the question does not arise.

#### **Status of BPL card holders in the country**

\*22. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people in the country having BPL cards as in 2017, Urban and Rural-wise;

(b) the number of people who have been added or have applied for inclusion in the BPL category during the last three years;

(c) whether the Ministry is verifying the previous card holders to ensure that they still come under the criterion of BPL and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether there are instances of people availing BPL services illegally and if so, the details thereof, along with the steps taken to curb them?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) The number of people having BPL card is not maintained centrally in the Ministry of Rural Development. The Ministry is using Socio Economic and Caste Census(SECC-2011) data for identifying beneficiaries under its various Programmes/ Schemes. SECC-2011 captures the socio -economic aspects of households as well as multi-dimensionality poverty of households. Programme specific priority list of

beneficiaries is generated, through the granular details available in the SECC 2011, for meeting programmes /schemes objectives. SECC-2011 data is being used for selecting beneficiaries in Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti of the Ministry of Power, etc.

(d) The States, Committee set up by the Central Government and Commissioner appointed by the Supreme Court recognized errors of inclusion and exclusion in the BPL list prepared prior to the SECC-2011.

The selection of beneficiaries through SECC for targeting beneficiaries of each Gram Panchayat is got validated through Gram Sabha. Identity is established through Aadhaar wherever legally allowed. Use of SECC data in the implementation of rural development programmes allows for evidence based developmental intervention.

#### **Restoration of ponds for drinking water**

†\*23. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any special scheme for restoration of ponds, keeping in view the problem of drinking water in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received suggestions in this regard from various States, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of ponds restored during the last three years under this scheme, State-wise; and

(d) the details of amount spent on restoration of ponds during the last three years and in current year under this scheme, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, renovation and restoration of community ponds is permissible. Farm ponds are being constructed under MGNREGS for facilitating irrigation to crops as well as recharge of groundwater table so that groundwater based drinking water schemes become sustainable.

Under Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies Scheme under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) (Har Khet Ko Pani) of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, funds for restoration of

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.