

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the developmental activities in the different States or equal development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had prepared the National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2001 which was released in March, 2002. The Human Development Index for each State has been worked out based on health, education and economic indicators, which are widely recognized as the most important components of total human development. The NHDR has also estimated two deprivational indices namely Human Poverty Index (HPI) and the Gender Equality Index (GEI) for the States based on appropriate indicators in the above mentioned three dimensions of human development namely educational, health and economic dimensions.

(c) These concerns have been given a place of prominence in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Monitorable targets covering social, economic and environmental dimensions of human development have also been set out for the Tenth and subsequent plans. The Government, both in the Centre and in the States, have initiated a number of programmes to improve the health and educational status of the people, as also to provide opportunities for employment and enhanced incomes.

In order to emphasis the importance of ensuring a balanced development for all States, the Tenth Plan includes a State-wise break-up of the broad developmental targets, including targets for growth rates and social development, which are consistent with the national targets. These State specific targets take into account the needs, potentialities and constraints present in each State and the scope for improvement in their performance, given these constraints.

Role of NGOs in Executing Project

1067. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that continued failure of the State agencies in spending allocations and involving people in implementation of welfare programmes, his Ministry now scripted a large role for Non-Governmental

organisations in executing the development projects thus enabling them to act as watchdog of Government institutions; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission functions as the nodal agency for the Voluntary Organisations/Non Governmental Organisations. The Voluntary Sector has been recognized as partners actively involved in economic and social development with strength of advocacy and organizational skills. The details are provided in the Tenth Plan Document, Volume 1, Chapter 6. The Document is also available on the website of Planning Commission at www.planningcommission.nic.in

BPL population in Madhya Pradesh

1068. **SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that population living Below Poverty Line is increasing very fast in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to reduce the BPL population, district-wise; and

(c) if no steps have been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. The percentage of people living below the poverty line in Madhya Pradesh, estimated from the NSS data on household consumer expenditure, has come down from 42.52% in 1993-94 to 37.43% in 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.