

for Industrial Workers (CPIW) and Consumer Price Index on Urban Non-manual employees (CPINM) for updating the urban poverty line.

- (5) Given the updated State-wise poverty lines and the corresponding size distribution of per capita consumption expenditure (PCCE) of National Sample Survey (NSS), the number of poor as a percentage of total population or the poverty ratio should be calculated separately for rural and urban areas for each State. The absolute number of poor in each State in rural and urban area should be calculated by applying the poverty ratio to the estimated population as given by the Registrar General of Census. The all-India (rural and urban) poverty ratio should be derived as a ratio of the aggregate number of State-wise poor persons to the total all-India (rural and urban) population. The implicit all-India poverty line may be worked out, given the all-India poverty ratio and the all-India distribution of population by expenditure classes obtained from the same NSS survey.
- (6) The poverty line and poverty ratio in respect of States, where availability of adequate data is a constraint, may be assigned from neighbouring areas on the basis of consideration of physical contiguity of areas and similarity of economic profile as indicated by other economic parameters.
- (7) The NSS consumption surveys which are carried out every 5 years yielding State level estimates of mean per capita total consumption expenditure and the size distribution of population around the mean, should be the basic source of information for estimating, on a quinquennial basis, the proportion of the population below the poverty line and poverty ratios following the recommended method should be worked out for the years 1977-78, 1983 and 1987-88 and onwards, as and when the State-wise results of quinquennial NSS rounds of comprehensive household surveys are available.
- (8) The Group favours exclusive reliance on the NSS data on household consumption expenditure (without any adjustment) for estimating the poverty ratio by States and in rural and urban areas.

(c) and (d). Data on Household Consumption Expenditure released by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) are the basis for estimating poverty. Census operations do not cover an assessment of poverty.

Rural Electrification in Assam

4194. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that till date only 60% villages have been electrified in Assam, and heavy load-shedding is going on;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision of the Government to supply free electricity to SC/ST people in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to complete rural electrification work in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). As per available information, out of the 21995 inhabited villages in Assam, 21887 villages (including some of the villages not included in the census 1981) have been electrified by the end of March, 1996. Distribution of electricity supply is within the jurisdiction of the State Government. As per the information available there was no statutory power cut in Assam in July, 1996. State Government/SEB, however, regulates the supply of electricity by the way of load shedding, depending upon day to day availability of power.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

(e) Rural Electrification schemes are formulated and executed by the respective State Electricity Board according to the priorities fixed by the State Government and the availability of financial and other resources.

MP's Funds

4195. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Area Development Fund Rs. One crore earmarked for Members of Parliament to spend in their constituencies is not sufficient;

(b) if so, whether, any decision has been taken to enhance the Fund of Rs. One crore; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) As per para 1.2 of the guidelines on MP Local Area