

total population of our country is estimated to have been living below the poverty line in 1977-78. This estimate is derived by using the poverty line of Rs. 65 per capita per month at 1977-78 prices corresponding to minimum daily calorie requirement of 2400 per person in rural areas and the poverty line of Rs. 75.00 corresponding to calorie requirement of 2100 in urban areas.

(b) Shortfalls in the targetted rates of growth in real income accompanied by high rates of population growth are among the major factors responsible for the inability of planning to make a major dent on poverty.

(c) The measures for improving the lot of the poor comprise partly those oriented towards the general development of the country, viz., development of agriculture, industry, power, etc. and partly specific individual beneficiary oriented schemes such as programmes for small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, hill areas, etc. In the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) further emphasis will be laid on these programmes. The National Rural Employment Programme has been launched which seeks to integrate the development projects with target group oriented employment generation projects. The Government also propose to revitalise and implement the 20-Point Programme which has come as a boon to the poorer sections of society. Further, the minimum needs programme will also be accorded high priority.

Issue of service card to bidi workers

2301. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers employed in Bidi Industry do not get service cards; and

(b) whether Government are willing to meet the demand of the Bidi workers on national level and compel their employers to issue such cards and if so, details thereof with special reference to Bihar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): (a) and (b). The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 under which working conditions of such workers are regulated is administered by State Governments and they appoint competent authorities for the implementation of the Act. The Act does not specifically provide for the issue of any "service cards" by employers. However, the Model Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Rules, 1967 framed by the Central Government which have been adopted by some of the State Governments including Bihar provide *inter alia* that every employer shall in respect of employees employed in industrial premises, maintain a muster roll in prescribed Form XIII, and the entries therein shall be made at the commencement of the work each day. The rules also requires that the employer shall provide free of cost to each home worker, log-books in prescribed Form XIV and the home worker shall keep a record of the daily work done by him, the number of beedis and cigars manufactured by him and the wages received by him in the said book and the supply of books shall be so arranged that one book remains with the home worker at all times during the period between two successive supplies of raw materials by the employer.

The Government of Bihar have further amended Bihar Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1968 in December 1979 and made provision for issuing of service cards to Bidi Workers by their employers with 3 days of their employment.