

Criteria to Enumerate the persons living below poverty line

584. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the new criteria adopted by the Planning Commission to enumerate the persons living below poverty line;

(b) the number of such persons living below poverty line during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the targets fixed for reduction in the number of people below poverty line during the Sixth Plan; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to remove regional differences in poverty and backwardness and to raise the standard of living of the masses?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) The criteria adopted by the Planning Commission are those laid down in the Sixth Plan. These define the poor as those whose per capita consumption expenditure lies below the mid point of the monthly per capita expenditure corresponding to a per capita daily calorie intake of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. This per capita consumption expenditure is then taken as the poverty line.

(b) The number of persons below the poverty line in the year 1977-78, the latest year for which the information is available, is estimated at 251.66 million in rural areas and 51.50 million urban areas.

(c) The Sixth Five Year Plan attempts, through poverty alleviation and other allied programmes, to reduce the number of people below the poverty line to 216.16 million.

(d) An important objective of the Sixth Five Year Plan is to bring about progressive reduction in regional inequalities in the pace of development and in the diffusion of technological benefits. This is sought to be done in several ways of which the more important are:

(i) Backwardness has been recognised as a factor to be reckoned in resource transfers. The IATP formula introduced in 1979 and the doubling of the segment for backward States in the Gadgil Formula for allocation of rental assistance for State Plans illustrate the effort made in recent years to modify the distribution of resources in favour of the backward States.

(ii) Special programmes for backward regions have been devised. Thus, mechanisms of area planning have been adopted to provide an integrated approach to the problems of regional inequalities and the sub-plan approach has been promoted. The Special Tribal Component Plan, Hill Area Schemes and specific programmes handled by the North East Council have all been evolved from these approaches. Greater emphasis is placed on all these in the Sixth Five Year Plan.

(iii) Central policies have also been designed to provide incentives to private entrepreneurs through schemes of concessional finance, seed/margin money scheme, central investment subsidy schemes, tax reliefs, specific interest subsidies, etc.

Checking of crimes against women

586. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government so far to check the crimes against women;

(b) the impact of the advertisements, documentaries and discussions in the matter and how far these have helped in moulding the public opinion; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to make the laws more stringent and whether any comprehensive plan has been chalked out to put an end to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (c). A statement is attached.

Statement

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, which is presently under the consideration

of Joint Committee consisting of Members from both the Houses of the Parliament contemplates measures which would provide deterrence against the commission of the crime of rape and protect the victims of it.

2. Comprehensive instructions have been issued on 13th August, 1982 to all States and Union Territories (except Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim) that thorough investigation should be conducted in all cases of attempted suicide or deaths in suspicious circumstances of young married women during the first ten years of their marriage. Since the existing provision of the Dowry Prohibition Act have not proved effective, amendments to the existing Dowry Prohibition Act, are under consideration of a Joint Committee of Parliament.

3. Allegations of involvement of Police in some of the instances of atrocities against women have also been made. Serious complaints against police brought to the notice of Government are promptly looked into. As public order and police are the Constitutional responsibility of the States, the State Government have been advised that complaints of alleged atrocities against women by police should be promptly looked into and enquiries completed and the culprits brought to book in the shortest possible time to create a sense of confidence.

4. The Central Government Conduct Rules have been amended to provide that no Government servant shall give or take or abet the giving or taking of dowry or demand directly any such dowry. A number of State Governments have also made similar amendments in the Conduct Rules relating to their State Governments Servants.

5. Voluntary Organisations are being involved to play the important role in creating social consciousness to make a dowry unacceptable.

6. The State Governments and Union Territories, the Central Social Welfare Board and the State Social Welfare Advisory Boards have been requested to launch anti-dowry campaigns to bring about attitudinal changes in the public mind against this evil.

7. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been carrying messages against dowry and sustained campaign against it through AIR/T.V. Programme. The Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity is also being involved in this effect.

Production Capacity of Electronics units

587. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present annual achievable capacity of Public and Private Sector Electronics units in the country and the extent to which it is being fully utilised;

(b) whether imports of televisions, radios and other things are being permitted, which can be produced internally, thereby our own units being starved of orders; and

(c) if so, reasons therefor, details thereabout and implications thereof for our self-reliance in this respect?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) The electronics industry involves a highly diverse range of products from systems, to equipment, to components and materials in functional terms and consumer, industrial, communication computers in terms of end use. Moreover, equipment production involves basically assembly, integration and testing with considerable labour input while component production involves process operations on capital equipment with relatively less labour content. In addition, at the level of electronic system, there is an increasing content of systems engineering and software generation. For these various reasons, it is extremely difficult to define 'production capacity' in the electronics industry.

(b) No, Sir. There are no general provision for import of items such as televisions, radios and other consumer electronic items. Some of these items can however, be imported under the provision of baggage rules and import under the gift scheme.

(c) Does not arise.