

indices from Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) to update the rural poverty line and a simple average of suitably weighted commodity indices of Consumer Price Index 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 the 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. 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 consumption expenditure and the size distribution of population around the mean, should be the basic source of information for estimating, on quinquennial basis, the proportion of the population below the poverty line and changes therein. Calculation of 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.

#### Drinking Water

20. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item published in

"Hindustan Times" dated October 19, 1996 regarding cases of deaths, diseases and disability as a result of drinking water from hand-pumps and also due to drinking of piped water under the scheme funded by the Centre;

(b) if so, the details of such cases which came to the notice of the Union Government during 1994, 1995 and 1996; and

(c) the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). *Arsenic* : 4636 cases of arsenic dermatosis have been reported from West Bengal upto August, 1996. Rs. 98.10 crore have been approved to provide safe drinking water in the affected areas of West Bengal during 1994-96.

*Fluorosis* : An amount of Rs.193.95 crores as Central assistance has been released during 1992-96 to various States to undertake measures to provide safe drinking water in the habitations affected by excess flouride in drinking water.

Further Rs.1.64 crore has also been released to the States to establish water quality testing laboratories to check and ensure supply of safe drinking water.

[Translation]

#### Power Generation in U.P.

21. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total requirement of electricity in Uttar Pradesh by the year 2000 AD;

(b) whether required electricity is to be met by the local power plants;

(c) the quantum of electricity produced by the present power plants;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fulfil the demand of electricity in the State?

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) The 15th Electric Power Survey Report projects the total requirement of electricity in Uttar Pradesh to be of the order of 52.4 billion units by the year 2000 AD.

(b) Power requirement of U.P. would be met from its share from Central Generating companies and power plants located in the State.

(c) and (d). The quantum of electricity produced by UPSEB power plants in October, 1996 was 1902 MUs comprising of 1410 MUs from thermal plants and 492 MUs from hydel sources.

(e) With a view to meet the demands for power, Government closely monitors the progress of commissioning of power projects which are under execution in the State. The State has also been advised to undertake renovation and modernisation of old units, strengthen transmission and distribution systems. Moreover, new capacity would also be added during the Ninth Plan.

#### DDA Registrants

22. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether plots have since been allotted to all the persons who had registered their names under the Rohini Scheme of the DDA; and

(b) if not, the number of such persons and the time by which they would be allotted plots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of balance registrants as on date for allotment of plots in different categories is 38, 375. No fixed time scheduled can be given for allotment of plots to the balance registrants as the process depends on various factors like acquisition of land, development of infrastructure, availability of funds and provisions of services by the concerned agencies like MCD and DESU.

[English]

#### Indo-Oman Gas Pipeline Project

23. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :  
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement was signed in 1993 between India and Oman for laying a deep sea pipeline between both the countries;

(b) whether the proposal has now been scrapped by Oman;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is a scope to review the decision; and

(e) the present position and the loss suffered by the country due to the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e). An Agreement on Principal Terms was signed with Oman in September, 1994. In terms of that Agreement, the feasibility study for the deep-sea pipeline was taken up by the Oman Oil Company. The feasibility study is yet to be completed. It has been decided that the Gas Authority of India Limited and Oman Oil Company will set up a Joint Working Group to expedite the completion of the feasibility study. No loss has been suffered by India due to the Agreement referred to above.

#### Permission for Additional Construction

24. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has taken a decision to construct residential flats of not fewer than four storeys in order to maximise land use as well as augment availability of residential accommodation to the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether DDA is also considering the proposal to allow construction of another storey on flats of fewer than four storeys already constructed and allotted by DDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The development proposal is based on the density FAR and ground coverage as contemplated in the Master Plan/Zonal Plan.

(c) No, Sir.

#### Rural Poverty

25. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the assessment of the Ministry with regard to rural poverty in June, 1992 and June, 1996, State-wise and

(b) the basis of arriving at such conclusions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The latest estimates of State-wise poverty are based on quinquennial survey on household consumer expenditure of 43rd round of NSS held in 1987-88. A statement indicating the State-wise number and percentage of population below poverty line for 1987-88 is enclosed. The assessment of poverty as in June, 1992 and June, 1996 is not made.