

About the incomplete projects, if the hon. Member has a specific reference

SHRI K.S. RAO : It is not one. There are hundreds and hundreds of incomplete projects pending in my constituency. Here, I am talking about the whole country.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, I will see to it. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If the House agrees, I have no objection to have Half-an-Hour Discussion. What is the reply from the hon. Minister? Do you agree for Half-an-Hour Discussion?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : We have discussed the matter many times. We have prepared an Action Plan. We have also prepared the programme for ground water recharging.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you agreeable for Half-an-Hour Discussion?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : I am agreeable, if Hon. Members are very much interested in it.

MR. SPEAKER : We will have Half-an-Hour Discussion. The hon. Minister has agreed.

People Living Below Poverty Line

+

*264. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey is being conducted to ascertain the percentage of the people living below poverty line in the country; and

(b) if so, the norms being adopted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The percentage of people living below poverty line is estimated from time to time by the Planning Commission utilising the National Sample Survey Data on Consumer Expenditure. However, to identify the persons living below poverty line, a 'Below Poverty Line Census' is being carried out in rural areas of all the States and Union Territories at the behest of this Ministry.

(b) For the estimation of the percentage of the people living below poverty line as well as for the 'Below Poverty Line Census', the poverty line as fixed by the Planning Commission, is taken as the norm.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I will be very brief. Will the hon. Minister let me know whether there are any instructions to the persons conducting surveys that

those who have fans, tiled roofs, sewing machines, stone walls, tin sheds and electricity should be omitted from the list of poverty line? They are not being included according to their income. Is there any guideline in this regard?

Secondly, the Prime Minister had assured this House last time that nearly Rs. 2,700 crore for the year 1997-98 was unutilised and that a meeting of all the Party representatives would be called. I would like to know whether this will be done in this Session at least.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : These data are not being used for identification of poverty. We are using these data for our self-employment programmes like IRDP, DWACRA and other programmes.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I will give one example. You can check. I will give the name of one specific village, Brashitakli in the district of Akola, Maharashtra where in the last census of survey of the population below poverty line, the people living below poverty line there was found to be 46 per cent. This time the census has been completed and it has been brought down to 20 per cent. These norms have been used to reduce the number of persons living below poverty line. Will you confirm this and report the fact to the House whether it is true or not?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : The Planning Commission is not taking into consideration these figures.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I am just asking you whether you will confirm the facts which I have stated and come before the House. It is my specific point. We are not interested in the Planning Commission. I am asking you a specific point. I have given you the name of one village where the population below poverty line was 46 per cent. This time it is 20 per cent. Will you report to the House whether it is a fact or not?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, poverty is a relative term. We are assisting the poorest of the poor.
(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I am giving you a concrete example.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Praksh Ambedkar, please sit down. What is this confrontation?

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : This question is very important. This is not a reply. This is a fraud which is being committed on the people. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : If the hon. Member wants the data, I will give it. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : You give a specific reply. . . . (*Interruptions*) They are saying that twenty per cent of the population is not being included. Is this under the direction of the IMF? (*Interruptions*) This is nothing but an eyewash. (*Interruptions*) The people living below the poverty line will be eliminated from the benefits of the various schemes. (*Interruptions*) They are not bothered about it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer which is given here, figures of poverty line in rural area is given in that. I would like to ask that whether poor people do not live in towns? (*Interruptions*) Why this work is not being done in cities?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time left.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has given the reply about rural area.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : The question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

OECF Assistance for Water Supply Projects

*265. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of water supply and sewerage projects with the assistance of Overseas Economic Cooperation Funds (OECF) and other external agencies cleared so far by the Union Government, State-wise;

(b) the projects under consideration of the Government State-wise;

(c) the criteria for selection of sites for these projects; and

(d) the cost shared by the Union Government and the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) As per

available information, the number of urban water supply and sewerage projects with the assistance of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) and the World Bank cleared so far by the Union Government is given State-wise in Statement-I

On receipt of a project proposal from a State Government for external assistance, the Union Government examines the feasibility of the proposal and explores the possibility of obtaining assistance from a suitable external funding agency through the Department of Economic Affairs. The number of projects which have been posed by the Union Government to various external agencies is given in Statement-II.

(c) Since urban water supply and sanitation are State subjects, the selection of sites for the projects rests entirely with the State Governments. The criteria for selection normally depends on the need for augmentation/improvement of the services, technical, financial and institutional capacity of the urban local bodies to implement the projects with foreign assistance.

(d) The cost is not shared by the Union Government with the State Governments for the externally aided urban water supply and sanitation projects.

Statement-I

Statewise List of Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Projects with the Assistance of the OECF (Japan) and the World Bank Cleared by the Union Government

S. No.	State	No. of Water Supply & Sewerage Projects	Agency
1.	Maharashtra	Five	World Bank
2.	Punjab	One	World Bank
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Two	World Bank
4.	Rajasthan	One	World Bank
5.	Gujarat	Two	World Bank
6.	Kerala	One	World Bank
		One	OECF
7.	Tamil Nadu	Three	World Bank
		One	OECF
8.	Andhra Pr.	One	World Bank
9.	Karnataka	One	OECF