

(a) whether United Nation Agency has warned that Indian cities are likely to become urban nightmares due to growing urban population and lack of planning;

(b) if so, the details of the problems envisaged by urban cities in the country; and

(c) the measures proposed by the Government to solve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is aware of the problems faced by the cities such as poverty, pollution, congestion, resource constraint, slums, inadequate infrastructure like housing, water supply, sewerage, solid waste disposal, urban roads as also social and cultural infrastructure etc.

(c) The Government has taken a number of measures to improve urban living conditions and deficiency of services in urban India. Some of the important measures include Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns, Mega City schemes and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme for enhancing urban basic services, Urban Environmental Improvement Programmes (EIUS), National Slum Development Programme, 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments for empowering Local Bodies, Repeal of Urban Land Ceiling Act (ULCA), National Housing Policy etc. as also involvement of private sector in resource mobilisation for housing and urban infrastructure projects.

[*Translation*]

Families below Poverty Line

3069. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sorted out the differences with the State Governments in determining the estimated population living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the names of those States; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to cater the needs of families living under poverty line in excess of estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) For the purpose of allocation of foodgrains to the families Below Poverty Line (BPL) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) the poverty estimates for the year 1993-94 arrived at by the Planning Commission based on the methodology of 'Expert Group on estimation of proportion and number of Poor' constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prof. Lakdawala have been adopted.

A BPL census is conducted by the States at the behest of Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment at the beginning of each Five Year Plan to identify BPL families for targeting under various self-employment programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IDP) etc. However, the allocation of funds for such programmes is made on the basis of the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission.

The State-wise poverty estimates arrived at by the Planning Commission are generally lower than the estimates of the States as per the BPL census for the 8th Five Year Plan.

While the BPL census can be a basis for identification of BPL families for issue of specially subsidised foodgrains under TPDS, the overall number has to be limited to the estimates of the Planning Commission. However, some States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa and Tamil Nadu have identified BPL families in excess of the estimates of the Planning Commission.

(c) The resources required for issue of specially subsidised foodgrains to BPL families identified in excess of the estimates of the Planning Commission have to be met by the State Government concerned on their own.

[*English*]

Foreign Mercenaries in Jammu and Kashmir

3070. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of increasing number of foreign mercenaries in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) According to the information