

poor countries in Asia as per the study conducted by the Asian Development Bank;

(b) if so, the position of India vis-a-vis the other countries;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any ambitious scheme to remove poverty from the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the above scheme is likely to be helpful in removing poverty from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Provision for Education/Health/Social Services

2339. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far to ensure provision of 6% of GDP for Education, Health and other social services by 2000 AD;

(b) the details of success achieved so far service-wise, indicating the Central and State allocations; and

(c) the increase in percentage in population having access to education, health, sanitation and other social services during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) Approach paper to the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) elaborates the Government's commitment to ensure provision of adequate resources for education, health and other social services. The Basic Minimum Services programme envisages access of all seven BMS namely, universal primary education, provision of safe drinking water, health facilities, housing for all, nutritional support to children, connectivity to unconnected villages and streamlining the public distribution system with a focus on the poor.

(b) According to 1996-97 (Budget estimates), the plan outlay for social services for centre, states and UTs was Rs. 30490.77 crore against Rs. 23178.56 crore in 1995-96 (revised estimates). Out of this total amount of

Rs. 30490.77 crore, a sum of Rs. 3132.97 crore is budgeted for general education, Rs. 814.30 crore for medical and public health, Rs. 1535.00 crore on family welfare and Rs. 1740.75 crore for housing.

(c) National programme on nutritional support to primary education is likely to cover 10.82 crore children in primary classes in all government, local body and government aided schools by 1997-98. In the area of primary health care infrastructure, 21853 primary health centres were in position in end March 1996 in addition to 132727 sub-centres and 2424 community health centres in the country. The number of primary health centres in end March 1994 and March 1995 stood at 21206 and 21536 respectively. According to the estimates prepared by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, 50 per cent of urban population was covered with sanitation facilities against 45.9 per cent in 1990.

Setting up New Board

2340. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a new Board to speed up Public Sector Core Projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up new Board to speed up public sector core projects.

(b) Does not arise.

Chinese Missiles

2341. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI PARSARAM BHARDWAJ :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "New Chinese Missiles target India and Russia-US Daily" appearing in "Times of India" dated July 11, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

(c) the details of missiles positioned towards India;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to meet this threat;

(e) whether Indian Government propose to take up this matter with China; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f): Government have seen media reports about the reported deployment of Chinese missiles against India and Russia. Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

2342. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the different Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Upliftment of Women, Poverty Alleviation Scheme and Rehabilitation of Terrorists who have surrendered arms are under implementation in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the above schemes more effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR): (a) to (c): Yes Sir. For providing employment opportunities and eradication of poverty, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir is implementing the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) are two important sub schemes of Integrated Rural Development Programme. Against the allocation of Rs. 3700.18 lakh for the 8th Five Year Plan, the anticipated expenditure is Rs. 2861.86 lakh and 52947 Families were assisted under the scheme. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme are the other schemes for generation of Wage Employment and on them against the allocation of Rs. 29954.55 lakh during the 8th Plan, the anticipated expenditure is Rs. 22617.10 lakh and a total Employment of 490.19 lakh Mandays were generated.

There is no centrally sponsored scheme for rehabilitation of terrorists.

[Translation]

Eye Disease

2343. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a heavy increase in the eye related diseases in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. In 1986 a national wide survey was conducted on prevalence of blindness in the country.

(d) The prevalence of blindness was estimated to be 1.49%.

[English]

Training Institutes in North Eastern States

2344. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the schemes launched to provide training to the labourers of the unorganised sector in the North-Eastern States;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up training institutes in the North-Eastern States, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the table of the House.

Provident Fund Office

2345. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :