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Title: Need to take concrete steps for poverty alleviation in the country.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Though there is a high economic growth in the country, still there is large scale poverty in India. Poverty in India can be defined as a situation when a certain section of people are unable to fulfil their basic needs. India has the world's largest number of poor people living in the country. Out of its total population of more than 1 billion, 350 to 400 million people are living below the poverty line. Nearly 75% of the poor people are in rural areas, most of them are daily wagers, landless labourers and self employed house holders. There are a number of reasons for poverty in India. Poverty in India can be classified into two categories namely rural poverty and urban poverty. Though the Government has complemented poverty eradication schemes they have not rendered the desired results as expected.

Main reasons for rural poverty are unequal distribution of income, high population growth, illiteracy, large families, caste system. Main causes for urban poverty are improper training, slow job growth and failure of PDS system.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to take concrete steps for removal of poverty in the country in a phased manner.