

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : If I may answer that, the reply to the first part of the question is 'No'. The norms have not been changed. The calorific intake is the same. But the conversion of the calorific intake into monetary terms is still the same. That means, 2,050 calories is now, I think, six thousand and some rupees. I do not have the exact figures with me.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : At which price level ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : At the present price level. That means, we fix the calorific value and the conversion to price takes place on that if it was 1979-80 it was presumably at 1979-80 prices. I do not have the exact figures.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : It is wrong.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : It is not very wrong. But the calorific intake is 2100. We have increased it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : In 1971 it was 2250 calories.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : 2400 for rural areas and 2100 for urban areas. There we have not done a change in the system. That may be the aggregate.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What about in money value ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I cannot find it here.

MR. SPEAKER : We can find it out.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The money value is Rs. 6400 per household in the rural sector (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : That can be worked out. It is a question of calculation. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I think the definition of household is very clear. I do not know how many households the hon. Member himself has. But in our mind there is no confusion about the household.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Do not create confusion in our homes.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Coming to the second part of the question, may be some of the schemes that they developed were useful. I do not deny that. And we are always open to suggestion. In fact, we are still using some of the ideas they had. But the point is that we have the capability of being able to use them whereas you did not.

Strategy for Elimination of Rural Poverty

*47. **SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the strategy in the Seventh Plan for elimination of rural poverty in the country ;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps in this connection ;

(c) whether Government have recast the Integrated Rural Development Programme and if so, what are the broad features thereof ;

(d) whether Government have estimated the number of people below poverty line residing in the rural areas in the country ; and

(e) what steps are going to be taken for their upliftment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) A statement is given below.

(b) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the Statement laid.

(c) Steps are being taken for recasting the Integrated Rural Development Programme. A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Yes, Sir. The number of people below the poverty line residing in the rural areas in 1983-84 was 22 crores and 15 lakhs as estimated on the basis of 38th Round of the National Sample Survey.

(c) The answer is covered in (a) and (b) above.

Statement

Removal of poverty remains a central concern of planning in India. Consistent with this objective, the Seventh Plan development strategy and the pattern of growth emerging from it are expected to lead to reduction in poverty. The emphasis on accelerated agricultural growth, increased productivity of rice in eastern India, developing the potential of dry-land agriculture, adoption of special measures to increase productivity and incomes of small and marginal farmers, implementation of the minimum needs programme, and expansion of irrigation facilities will make a substantial contribution to a reduction of poverty. In addition, the Seventh Plan includes a number of anti-poverty and employment promoting Programmes specifically designed to raise incomes and productivity of the people below the poverty line.

(c) The following steps are being taken for recasting the Integrated Rural Development Programme :

1. A higher investment per family including package of assistance to enable proper return on investment, for new beneficiaries ;
2. Supplemental dose of assistance to those families assisted during VIth Plan who have not been able to cross the poverty line, for no fault of their own ;
3. The approach of uniformity has been changed to one of selectivity based on poverty incidence ;
4. Identification of beneficiaries must involve the people's representatives more closely ;
5. Efforts to improve the Linkages through identifying bodies at district level, for this purpose or the establishment of District Supply and Marketing Societies ;
6. Increasing the coverage of women beneficiaries to 30 % ;
7. Initiating a new schemes for the proper coordination of the

training effort through the establishment of Composite Rural Training and Technology Centres. This is under consideration of Government of India and guidelines will be issued separately ;

8. The administrative set up at block, district and State levels should be streamlined and strengthened, wherever necessary. A High Level Committee has also been appointed to review the existing administrative arrangements for implementation of rural development Programmes ;
9. Creating a better climate of awareness of beneficiaries and their proper organisation ;
10. A greater involvement of voluntary agencies will be sought for implementation of IRDP Schemes, including TRYSEM, to enable new types of family oriented projects to be implemented in a most effective manner ;
11. A new system of concurrent evaluation on the basis of taking up 36 districts, 72 blocks and a group of 10 current beneficiaries and 10 beneficiaries who received their assistance two years ago, per month, is being introduced to have a closer monitoring of the programme.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Since it is an open secret that the banks are not coming in a big way to assist the beneficiaries and they are made to run for months, what steps Government is taking for the implementation of these schemes by eradicating problems.

MR. SPEAKER : Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Infiltration from Bangladesh

*46. **SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :