

encourage the milk suppliers to produce more? The people engaged in the occupation of producing milk are gradually shifting to other occupations, because they do not get reasonable price. What steps are being taken to encourage them so that more milk could be supplied to Delhi in order to remove the shortage?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: There are three seasons of milk. One starts from July, August which is mean seasons, another is in winter which is the peak person and the third is the lean season, which we have in the summer. Mother Dairy and D.M.S. purchase milk at the rate of Rs. 6.61 from the federation at present. After deducting the expenditure incurred by the federation, the balance amount is distributed among the farmers. Similarly D.M.S. and Mother Dairy purchase milk from the federation at the rate of Rs. 6.04 during the mean season and at the rate of Rs 5.58 during the lean season. After deducting the nominal expenses, incurred by the federation, the balance amount is given to the farmers. He has said that I have not given the figures about Andhra Pradesh. An amount of Rs. 24 crores has been allocated to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu): Hon. Speaker, Sir, farmers number 12 lakh 11 thousand 583 in Jhunjhunu area of Rajasthan. Keeping this large number of farmers in view, a Mother Dairy plant was installed some time back. But since the plant has been closed down, the farmers are left with no source to sell their milk off.

SHRIGIRIDHARILAL VYAS: You have left out Sikar.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: It includes Sikar also. Jhunjhunu has been deprived of it. Will the hon. Minister give an assurance to reopen the plant in the near future keeping in view the means of livelihood of the farmers of Jhunjhunu?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has never mentioned

about it in the past. He has told me today only that the plant at Jhunjhunu is lying closed. I shall certainly look into it and take up the matter with the Rajasthan Government also. N.D.D.B. will be asked to make it functional again. It will be made operational if it is in functional condition. N.D.D.B. has advanced a sum of Rs. 11 crores, 26 lakh, and 70 thousand to Rajasthan Government.

[English]]

Merger of NREP and IRDP

*759. **SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the Integrated Rural Development Programme has helped the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans in bringing them above the poverty line;

(b) whether in view of present-day depreciation in the rupee value, Government propose to amend the existing cut-off line of Rs. 4800/- under the Integrated Rural Development Programme; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to merge the Integrated Rural Development Programme with the National Rural Employment Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). A statement is given below:-

STATEMENT

Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans upto an annual income of Rs 4800/- per annum are assisted with a package of subsidy and loan in order to acquire income generating assets and thereby enable them to earn incremental income and eventually

cross the poverty line, According to Concurrent Evaluation Report for January-December, 1987, at the national level 60% of the old beneficiaries had crossed the level of Rs. 3500 and 13% the revised poverty line of Rs. 6400. However, in about 78% cases the assets provided under IRDP had generated incremental income. the incremental income was more than Rs. 2000 in 27% cases, between Rs. 1001-2000 in 24% cases and between Rs. 501-1000 in 17% cases. It was upto Rs. 500 in 10 cases.

There is no proposal under considerations of the Government to amend the cut-off line of Rs 4800.

There is no proposal to merge the integrated Rural Development Programme with the National Rural Employment Programme.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Mr . Speaker, Sir I would like to know what machinery has been evolved to check that the allocation marked under the two programmes for the Scheduled Castes actually reach them. What is the estimated number of Scheduled Caste families actually benefited by these programmes and are brought above the poverty line over a number of years since the inception of these programmes?

I would like to know whether any assessment has been made at any stage of the outcome of the various sub-Plans launched under these programmes like Development of Women and Children in rural areas and how far have these programmes helped ameliorating the lot of the poor people?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: There was a concurrent evaluation. The result of the concurrent evaluation shows a positive impact of the Rural Development Programme.

So, far as IRDP is concerned, for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the target is 30% of the total allocation. But, we have been able achieve 44.71 i.e. we

have crossed the target. It is a very good performance of IRDP.

Now coming to women, we have got a programme from our side. There are lot of programmes under which we are providing facilities for the women and also children in the rural areas. About 60% of the old beneficiaries had crossed the level of Rs. 3,500/- and 13% have crossed the revised poverty line of Rs. 6,400/-

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: My second supplementary is what is the present yardstick to determine the poverty line and whether in view of the every day depreciation in the rupee value, will the Government revise the existing norm?

What are the difficulties which lie in the way of Government in raising this cut-off line so as to make the programme more result and benefit oriented?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The poverty line is determined by the Planning Department and if the question is directed to the Planning Ministry, it will be better.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would only take a minute to tell him that so far as the yardstick for the people living below poverty line is concerned, a person needs atleast 2300 calories per day. A person falling short of this quantity of calories is considered to be living below poverty line. According to a survey conducted by the N.S.S. in 1983-84 nearly 4 crore 45 lakh families in the entire country were living below poverty line, which constituted approximately 40 per cent of the total population. Our target during the Seventh Five Year Plan was to reduce this percentage of 40 to 28. We want that during the Eighth Five Year Plan, this percentage should further go down to 10 per cent. The Government has distributed funds amounting to Rs. 11 thousand crores to the poor under the I.R.D.P. from 1980 to February 1989. Out of this

amount, Rs. 7 thousand crores was distributed as loan and Rs. 4 thousand crores in the form of subsidy to the poor, so that the condition of the poor may improve.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Udhampur): Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the 1983-84 survey was conducted in a great hurry and there was no reasonable yardstick for it? If that be so, the number of people living below poverty line in our country has been increasing further due to fragmentation of holdings and continuous rise in the price line. I would like to ask whether the Government has any confirmed figures or has it formulated any time-bound programme which may indicate the time by which poverty line be eradicated? Has the Government fixed any deadline for the purpose?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: The hon. Member has asked a very important question, but this is not correct to say that the survey was conducted in a hurry. Whenever a survey is conducted, the statistics are finalised only after going deep into all aspects and then only decision is arrived at. To say that wrong figures have been given in a haste is not correct.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: Sir, I said it on the basis of my experience..

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Your experience can be one of a haste.. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: Sir, my experience is not one of haste, it is absolutely correct.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as his question regarding the time by which poverty will be removed is concerned, my submission is that the efforts of the Government have always been to remove poverty and numerous programmes have been formulated by it for poverty alleviation. As I submitted just now, out of 4.5. crore families, the Government is going to help 2 crore families during the Seventh Plan. The rest of such families will be helped in the

Eight Five Year Plan so that their number is further reduced from 28 per cent to 10 per cent. The effort of the Government will be that poverty is removed from the country in the Eighth Five Year Plan, but you know Mr. Speaker, Sir that the resources are shrinking with the increase in population of our country. Therefore, it is extremely difficult to say that poverty will be rooted out completely. What is important is as to what is the endeavour and intention of the Central Government. The endeavour and intention of the Government has been to formulate programmes and give employment to the poor.

MR. SPEAKER: The fact is that we can get the desired results only if the Government and all the parties sit together and formulate a solid strategy on population control.

[English]

We must control population before we control this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the national average of the people living below poverty line is 37 per cent. However it is unfortunate that there are still some states like Bihar where 47 per cent people are living below poverty line and, I feel, this percentage is highest in the country. Therefore, through you. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether any special scheme has been formulated for Bihar for the upliftment of the 47 per cent people living below poverty line so as to bring them below the national average?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I submitted just now, more than Rs. 11 thousand crore have been spent on I.R.D.P. from 1980 till date. So far as the other schemes namely, N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. are concerned, the two have been merged to evolve a new scheme called Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Rs. 500 crores have been allocated for it. In this regard, the hon. Prime Minister will make an announcement

in the House shortly regarding its details and then you will realise what a marvellous scheme has been formulated for giving employment to the people in our country. Assistance will also be given under this scheme to the States like Bihar where extreme poverty prevails in certain districts.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Sir, much development has taken place through these programmes especially in the rural areas to enable them to have improvement in the road conditions. Last year, there was a ban on spending RLEGP funds for roads. It was expected to spend only on buildings. Now, these two programmes, i.e. NREP & RLEGP are going to be merged. My question to the hon. Minister is this. In the revised scheme of merger of NREP and RLEGP, will the Government make scope for spending these funds for road development also? Because still several lakhs of villages are unconnected. Under the MNP categories, sufficient funds are not made available. Unless provision of funds is made to this also, road development in rural areas will not take place. So my question is whether the Government will consider this and issue suitable instructions.

The second point is, under IRDP programmes now-a-days due to the increase in the income levels of people there is a vast scope under the service sector. Under IRDP programmes and self-employment schemes more units like trade cycles should be given to sell vegetables and fruits etc. More units of two-wheel cycles or four-wheel cycle carts should be earmarked and allotted because more number of people can be helped.

MR. SPEAKER: This is suggestion and not a question. He will take note of your suggestion.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA

RAO: Will the Government take necessary steps and act accordingly.?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he submitted that the funds meant for NREP and RLEGP are not being spent on roads and are being diverted to other works. He has given the example of Andhra Pradesh. However, funds in that State are not spent on the work for which they are collected. Even the very nomenclature is altered. Therefore, his complaint is very valid and he should take it up with the State Government.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You have not been able to understand the question.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You are a very intelligent Member and always speak the truth. I appreciate you for this. But so far as spending funds on roads is concerned, upto 25 per cent of funds in that scheme can be spent on roads. There will no restriction on it.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister is aware, ever since the expansion of cantonment board took place 20-25 years ago a number of marginal farmers in nearly villages whose land was acquired slipped below poverty line. Agriculture labourers in that area are also going below poverty line day after day. As per the Government rules, those living below poverty line in the cantonment areas are not covered under NREP and RLEGP. I would like to know whether keeping the special circumstances in view, the Government would give any assurance to cover these citizens living below poverty line also under the IRDP, NREP and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people who are living in the Cantonment Board are not under the Department of Rural Development. They will be covered in the Cantonment scheme when formulated or in the schemes formulated for the town or the municipal area.