

in Sri Lanka are praiseworthy and I congratulate the Prime Minister for that.

MR. SPEAKER : You put your question, do not make a speech.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Sir, I want to know, through you, has an agreement been reached in any way to the effect that the Sri Lanka Government would not use the Armed Forces to suppress the political demands?

MR. SPEAKER : This has already been replied to.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The entire basis of the discussion is that no solution to this problem can be found by suppression through the Armed Forces. Therefore, it should be solved through political negotiations.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : There is an apprehension in the minds of Tamils in Tamil Nadu and also Sri Lanka that by the time we reach the settlement or accord, actually there will not be any Tamil population in Sri Lanka. I suppose so, because I want to put it thus : in the last 7 or 8 months, talks are going on either in Bhutan or Delhi or somewhere. Our hon. Prime Minister has also assured that he wants to take immediate action on this issue, in order to settle the ethnic problem prevailing in Sri Lanka. Even during his recent visit to foreign countries, our Hon. Prime Minister actually might have met the Minister Shri Athulathmudali or Sri Lanka. I want to know from the Hon. Prime Minister what actually they talked, or whether they are going to settle it immediately, because it is an ethnic problem prevailing for the last so many years. Every day, i.e. day by day, the population of Tamils is diminishing. So, I want the Prime Minister to tell us whether is going to settle it immediately, just like Punjab or Assam.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I may, with your kind permission Sir, bring to the notice of the Member that Sri Lanka is an independent country, and it is not just like Assam or Punjab.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : The Tamil issue is a part and parcel of this country. You have taken it as a national problem. That is what you have said.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I think there is some difference of views on our outlook on the Tamil problem. We treat it entirely as a Sri Lankan problem, and not as an Indian problem. The Indian problem is the refugees that we have got, any violation of human rights, any actions which may be seen to be counter to normal law and order measures. And on those issues, yes, we are involved. We would like to take them up, as we would in any other country if we saw—like we do in South Africa—and feel human rights are being violated, we take them up. So, on these issues, yes; we will look into other countries. But basically it is a problem for Sri Lanka to solve. We will do whatever we can to help them solve it. We would like the refugees that have come from Sri Lanka to go back to Sri Lanka in honour and security.

#### People Below Poverty line

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\*45 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) Percentage of people below the poverty line in the country in 1980 ;

(b) Present percentage of people below the poverty line in the country ; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce poverty during the Sixth Plan period and steps proposed to be taken in the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

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

#### Statement

(a) and (b) The Poverty estimates worked out by the Planning Commission are based on the results of the Household

Consumer Expenditure surveys Conducted quinquennially by the National Sample Survey Organisation. Based on the surveys conducted by the NSSO in 1977-78 (32nd Round) and in 1983 (38th Round), the percentage of people below the poverty line are given below for both

1977-78 (Revised) and 1983-84 (Provisional). In addition, based on the distribution pattern of consumer expenditure as revealed by the 1977-78 and 1983 surveys, estimates of percentage of people below the poverty line have also been made for 1979-80 and 1984-85.

Percentage of people below the poverty line in the country.

Year	Rural	Urban	Combined
1977-78 (Revised)	51.2	38.2	48.3
1979-80 (Revised)	55.5	42.0	52.4
1983-84 (Provisional)	40.4	28.1	37.4
1984-85 (Provisional)	39.9	27.7	36.9

(c) The overall strategy of the sixth Plan and the pattern of growth was designed to contribute to a reduction in the poverty ratio. In addition, a number of poverty alleviation programmes like the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) which had been under implementation during the sixth Plan, aim at increasing the income of the weaker sections by the creation of assets or generating employment. Besides, the programmes like Special Component Plans for Scheduled Castes, Tribal Development Plan, Minimum Needs Programme, emphasis on Small and Marginal Farmers, Strategies for village and Small Industries etc. also help in the reduction of poverty.

These programme will be continued at an accelerated pace in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I want to raise a point of order. My point of order is that the Ministers who do not know Hindi should learn Hindi. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Overruled, you know there is a provision for both the languages

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: want to know from the hon. Minister

how much money was allocated during the Fifth and the Sixth Five Year Plans to lift the people above the poverty line and how much of that was actually spent by the Government ?

[English]

SHRI A K. PANJA : The question is on poverty line and percentage. If you ask how much money was allotted for this purpose, I need notice.

Various measure are taken up for alleviation of poverty. In fact, the whole Sixth plan and the Seventh plan and the earlier plans are meant for alleviation of poverty. However there are direct assault on poverty with emphasis on selected aspects (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Reply to my question is not forthcoming. .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Certainly, the reply is being given.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : If I may just clarify that.

[Translation]

The entire plan is for removing poverty.

[*English*]

100 per cent of that plan is for removing poverty.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : I am not talking of the plan. Plan needs money. What I want to ask is that how much money was allocated during the Fifth Plan and how much of that was actually spent. The figures which have been given show... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You have got reply to your question. The entire Plan is meant for that ..... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : This is all directed towards that end. The main purpose, the main aim and the main goal is to remove poverty. He is right.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : All programmes are not for poverty alleviation.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : They are for poverty alleviation. In case you did not know, if we put up an industry, it is for alleviation of poverty ; if we make roads (*Interruptions*) Let me specify the question that was asked. The question was how much money was spent for removing poverty. That is what we are answering. .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : There are certain specific poverty alleviation programmes ; all programmes are not described as poverty alleviation programmes.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : That is not the question that was asked.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He wants to know how much money is being spent on alleviation of poverty.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Why don't we let him ask what he wants to know ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He will not be able to express himself well.

(*Interruptions*)\*\*

\*\*Not recorded.

Mr. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(*Interruptions*)\*\*[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : According to the figures that have been given, in 1977-78, 51 per cent of the people were living below the poverty line and thereafter it is mentioned that it increased to 55 per cent, i.e., it rose by four per cent. I want to know how much money was spent on planning in 1977-78 and where that money has gone, after all.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You put the question. These are Revised Estimates. There can be an error in the figures.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : He can at least say that the figures are not wrong.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The poverty had increased during those years. You would remember that at that time our Government was not there. Those who were in power can reply to that.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : No, it is not like that. It was their Government in 1979-80. ... (*Interruptions*) Shrimati Indira Gandhi had given the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao' in 1971.

(*Interruptions*)[*English*]

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Poverty alleviation programmes like IRDP, NREP, RLEGP were started by late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi has visited poorest of the poor in remotest parts of our country, which shows his concern about implementation of these programmes. We know that there are some problems at the implementation stage. What steps have been taken on the implementation of these

programmes and how many people have been punished in this connection? And, I would also like to know from the hon. Minister, how the Government is going to monitor the programmes of this special nature. Is the Government going to give incentives to those who work and also punishment to those who do not work, so that the poor people get the real benefit?

**SHRI A.K. PANJA :** So far as the implementation and monitoring are concerned, our Prime Minister definitely thought and correctly so in my respectful submission, that programme implementation so far as poverty alleviation is concerned is a must. And that is why a separate Ministry headed by Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhury for Programme Implementation has been created.

**SHRI AMAL DATTA :** He is not here.

**SHRI A.K. PANJA :** So far as monitoring is concerned so long the Planning Commission was monitoring all the projects. But now not only the different department themselves are monitoring the programme implementation and the actual performance, that is what is being done up to Rs. 100 crores and above, or below Rs. 100 crores, up to Rs. 50 crores like that, this is also being monitored by that Ministry. We are trying to augment that and now it is being done by a different Ministry.

**SHRI RAJIV GANDHI :** I will add to that. If I may just add to that answer, during my visits to the tribal areas and other areas I have found a number of problems with implementation of certain plans. As you are aware, most of the implementation—almost 100 per cent—is done by the State Governments. We have taken this up. Certain plans have been modified, but as this question does not relate directly to modification of the plans, and really to poverty, if you put another question I can answer that. If the hon. Member wants, I can send him a note giving in detail all the changes that have come about since I visited all those places.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** The hon. Minister in his written reply has

quoted certain figures as to, in various years what was the percentage living below the poverty line. I wish to ask a fundamental question regarding the norms of deciding this percentage. Is it not a fact that as early as 1971, a study undertaken by Dandekar and Rath had defined the minimum intake of energy required by a human being in India as 2,250 calories and at a level of 1960-61 prices the net equivalent in rupees comes to 14.2 rupees per capita per mensem? That is, everyone who got below that is supposed to be living below the poverty line.

Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they have changed the norms regarding the calculation of the people below poverty line, and therefore people living above the poverty line, because it is possible that when you say that people have been lifted above the poverty line probably by the new norms the poverty line might have been depressed down-ward and as a result of that people might have come up. That I would like to know and also the norms.

And with your permission, since the Prime Minister referred to the earlier years, and he said, as far as the earlier years are concerned, (*Interruption*)

**SHRI RAJIV GANDHI :** A small point, Prof. Dandavateji—before the question is answered—he was not the Planning Minister at that time.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** I did not do planning but I did Family Planning well.

As far as this aspect is concerned, I want to point out to you, that from 1978- to 1979 when there was another Government, the Planning Commission headed by Shrimati Indira Gandhi had appointed an evaluation committee to find out how the anti-poverty schemes were working and their report was that the schemes like Food for work, Antyodaya programme undertaken during the Janata period helped the poorest among the poor. This is the reply with retrospective effect.

**MR. SPEAKER :** With the result or something else?

**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.