

Definition of 'Poor' and 'Poverty Line'

545. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :
PROF. K. K. TEWARY :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the study group set up by the Planning-Commission in 1962 defined 'poor as a persons who incurs an expenditure of Rs. 20 per month at 1960-61 price level';

(b) if so, whether any changes have been made since then, in the definition of 'poor' and 'poverty line';

(c) if so, what is the latest norm regarding the 'Poverty-line'; and

(d) on the basis of this norm, what is the percentage of population living below the poverty line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Working Group set up by the Planning Commission in 1962 came to the view that in order to provide the minimum nutritional diet and to allow for a modest degree of items other than food, the national minimum consumption expenditure for a household of five persons should not be less than Rs. 100 per month at 1960-61 prices *i.e.*, Rs. 20 per capita per month.

(b) and (c). The concept of poverty line and the estimates of percentage of persons below it were attempted for the first time for the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-95). These were based on the recommendations of a Task Force on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand appointed by the Planning Commission in 1977, which defined the poor as those whose per capita consumption expenditure corresponded to a per capita daily calorie intake of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The corresponding money values of consumption expenditure of such intake (the poverty line) per capita per month have been worked out to be Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.65 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices. The main data source for these estimates is the quinquennial Consumer

Expenditure Surveys of the National Sample Survey Organisation. The same calorie norms have been made use of in the latest exercises as well. For the Seventh Plan the updated consumption expenditure (poverty line) has been worked out to be Rs. 107 in rural areas and Rs. 122 in urban areas at 1984-85 prices, per capita per month.

(d) The percentage of population living below the poverty line in 1984-85 (the latest available) is 36.9.

Review of Official Secrets Act

546. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Official Secrets Act was brought on the statute book as far back as 1923;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain provisions of the said Act tend to be counter-productive under changed conditions; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the said Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No. Does not arise.

Inclusion of Dhobi Community in the List of Schedules Castes

548. SHRI V. SOBHANADEESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether washerman community is recognised as Scheduled Caste in some States;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) whether the washerman Associations of Andhra Pradesh have requested to Government of India for inclusion of Dhobi Community in the list of Scheduled Castes; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). Washerman (Dhobi) community has been recognised as Scheduled Castes in the following States/Union Territories :

States :

1. Assam (Dhupi, Dhobi).
2. Bihar
3. Himachal Pradesh (Chhimbe, Dhobi).
4. Kerla (Vannan)
5. Madhya Pradesh in Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore districts.
6. Manipur (Dhupi, Dhobi)
7. Meghalaya (Dhupi, Dhobi)
8. Orissa (Dhoba, Dhobi)
9. Rajasthan
10. Tamil Nadu in Kanya Kumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district (Vannan)
11. Tripura (Dhoba)
12. Uttar Pradesh
13. West Bengal (Dhoba, Dhobi)

Union Territories

1. Delhi
2. Arunachal Pradesh (Dhupi or Dhobi)
3. Mizoram (Dhupi or Dhobi)

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The above proposal is being considered along with similar other proposals in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Further any amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution.

T. V. Transmission Facilities to States through INSAT-1C

549. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) when will INSAT-1C be launched;

(b) which are the States that will be provided with regional T. V. transmission facilities consequent on the launching of INSAT-1C; and

(c) whether Karnataka will get the T.V. regional transmission facility during 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENTS, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) The INSAT-1C is currently scheduled for launch by US-NASA STS Flight No. 61-I with a nominal launch date of September 27, 1986.

(b) As per current plans, upon launch and successful operationalisation of INSAT-1C, using one C-b and transponder on INSAT-1B and two C-b and transponders on INSAT-1C, regional TV feeds are to be available in a phased manner to the TV transmitters in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and the North-Eastern region. Of these, the regional feeds for Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are expected to be commissioned using INSAT-1B in course of the current calendar year.

(c) No, Sir.

Allotment of Funds to North Eastern Council

550. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have extended specific financial allocations to the North Eastern Council for the Development of Environment and Forests in the North Eastern Region during the Seventh Five Year Plan;