

**Persons raised above Poverty Line during Sixth Five Year Plan**

520. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons raised above poverty line during the Sixth Five Year Plan period in the country ;

(b) sources from which the relevant data have been collected, probessed and complied ; and

(c) whether he is aware that eminent economists of the country have challenged the data circulated by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has conducted quinquennial Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys in 1972-73 (27th Round), 1977-78 (32th Round) and 1983 (38th Round). The reports on these surveys give give consumption level for different items by Expenditure class and also the number of Households with their composition by Expenditure class. The results contained in the reports have been utilised by the Planning Commission for the estimation of the percentage and number of people below the poverty line. Based on the 1977-78 NSSO Survey (Revised) the number of persons below the poverty line in 1979-80 (base year of the Sixth Plan) has been estimated at 347.8 Million. Based on 1983 NSSO Survey (latest available), the number of persons below the poverty line in 1984-85 (Provisional) has been estimated at 272.7 million, which implies that the number of person raised above the poverty line during the Sixth Plan was about 75 million.

(c) The poverty estimates for the year 1984-85 are based on the 1983 NSSO Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure which has been released only recently. The Government is not aware of any eminent economist having challenged the estimates.

[*Translation*]

**Central Assistance to Bihar during Seventh Plan**

521. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has made a provision in the Seventh Five Year Plan for giving Central Assistance for the implementation of development Schemes in hilly areas of Bihar State as cent per cent grant basis ; and

(b) whether there is a provision in the Plan to relax the present prescribed norms with a view to extending facilities like communication, transport, banking etc. in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Requests received from some States for introducing the scheme to other areas are being executed.

-[*English*]

**"Conversion of Agricultural Land into Social Forests"**

522. SHRI E AYYAPU REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been instituted to ascertain how much of the agricultural land can usefully be converted into social forests ;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to give incentives for conversion of unproductive wasteland into social forests ;

(c) wether coobobul is found to be remunerative for industrial use and also for fodder purposes ; and

(d) if so, whether there are any plans to provide incentives for its growth in the sphere of social forests ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) No study has been carried out to ascertain how wuch of agricultural land can usefully be converted to social forestry.

(b) Incentives in the form of free distribution of seedlings, technical guidance etc. are being provided so that each farmer can identify marginal farmland/wasteland and afforest the same.