

**Meetings held by National Committee on Environmental Planning**

2811. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:  
SHRI B. V. DESAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings held by the National Committee on Environmental Planning (NCEP); and

(b) the subjects discussed during the meetings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH): (a) Three meetings have so far been held by the National Committee on Environmental Planning

(b) Priority areas for environmental programmes, institutional facilities for promotion of environmental education, state of the environmental report, pilot projects for environmental improvement and needs for re-orientation in the forest policy are among the subjects discussed during these meetings.

**Steps to Remedy Imbalances in Planning**

2812. SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh guidelines have been issued on plan targets set earlier due to slow implementation of Plan and resulting escalation in plan costs;

(b) whether it is not part of planning process to provide for cost escalation; and

(c) what are the reasons for imbalances in planning and remedial steps in mind?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. This is done at the time of the finalisation of the annual plans.

(c) The imbalances occur mainly due to (i) investment cost escalation (ii) changes in external situation including changes in the terms of trade (iii) natural calamities and (iv) deficiency in resource mobilisation. The annual plans are devised to take necessary remedial actions.

**Proportion of People below Poverty Line**

2813. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DAN-DAVATE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of persons below the poverty line as on 31 August 1982; and

(b) the percentage increase of those below the poverty line as on 31 August, 1979; 31 August, 1980; 31 August, 1981 and 31 August 1982?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) The estimated number of persons below the poverty line as on 31st August 1982 is not available. The latest available survey of consumer expenditure on which the estimates of poverty are based is for the year 1977-78. Taking into consideration the growth of the economy (of nearly 6 per cent per annum) in the first two years of the Sixth Plan and the different redistributive measures towards poverty alleviation programmes, the number of persons below the poverty line at the end of the year 1981-82 has been estimated at 282.0 million, which works out to 41.51 per cent of the population.

(b) The Sixth Five Year Plan has estimated that there were 316.84 million persons below the poverty line in the year 1979-80. The average annual fall of people below the poverty line, between 1979-80 and 1981-82, works out to 5.6 per cent. Precise estimation as on the dates mentioned in the question is not possible.