

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) Frequent changes of Government since 1989 have unavoidably delayed the formulation of the Eighth Plan.

(c) Necessary steps are being taken now for very early finalisation of the Eighth Plan.

(d) The strategy of ensuring people's participation in the execution of rural development programmes through democratic decentralisation and revitalisation of Panchayat Raj institutions will constitute a major element of the Plan.

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS

*72. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to improve infrastructure facilities in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes in this regard;

(c) whether the allocations for the said purpose would be enhanced; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the infrastructure facilities would be improved in rural areas of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) : (a) and (b) Government recognize the need to improve the infrastructure facilities in rural areas. Under poverty alleviation programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP), funds are provided for improving infrastructure facilities in rural areas. The details of action to be taken for further improvement will depend upon funds allocated under the Plan for this purpose.

(c) and (d) As the basic features including the size and shape of Eighth Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised, information in this regard is not available.

LIVE TELECAST OF CAR FESTIVAL OF LORD JAGANNATH OF ORISSA

*73. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for live telecast of one of the important festivals of the country, i.e., the car festival of Lord Jagannath in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) As per the existing policy and available technique, live TV coverages are limited to events of nationwide topicality such as Republic Day Parade, Independence Day, International Conferences, important sports events, etc. For other important socio-cultural events, TV reports are prepared for subsequent telecast on Doordarshan. The Car Festival at Puri is also telecast on Doordarshan through a report in the national programme in addition to the news coverage on the same day.

(Translation)

REVISION OF GADGIL FORMULA FOR CENTRAL ASSISTANCE

*74. SHRI GIRDHARI LAJ BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether poverty index finds any place in the modified Gadgil Formula for Central Assistance to States;