

years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

[*English*]

Restructure of NCDC

*102. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert group has recommended financial and administrative restructuring of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to widen its activities and strengthen its financial base;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the expert group; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Expert Group has made the following recommendations:—

- (i) Re-loaning of the principal repayable by NCDC to the Central Government and the process may continue for atleast 3 years.
- (ii) Assistance from the Central Government in a few account heads in place of existing numerous heads and sub-heads.
- (iii) Exemption from payment of income-tax to be restored as given earlier from 1984-85 to 1988-89.
- (iv) Annual interest instalment payable by the Corporation to the Central Government to be re-deployed as grant in NCD Fund for next 5 years until total grant of Rs. 500 crores is provided.
- (v) Interest rate on Central Government loans may be reduced from 12% to 8.5%.
- (vi) NCDC may be allowed to borrow funds from the banks as per their requirement upto a limit of Rs. 100 crores per annum.

(vii) NCDC may explore the possibility of mobilising funds from the World Bank/ECB and raising deposits from the cooperative sector.

(viii) The proposed National Cooperative Bank should have proper linkages with the NCDC for raising sufficient resources at competitive rates from the cooperative sector.

(c) The Government has taken the following action on the above recommendations:—

(i) The proposal for providing Central Government assistance in few account heads was sent to Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for consideration. The Planning Commission did not agree with the proposal to avoid imbalances in various segments of the cooperatives sector.

(ii) Exemption of payment of income tax has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance.

(iii) NCDC has been permitted to borrow funds from commercial/cooperative banks as per their requirements upto the limit of Rs. 147.5 crores per annum but the facility of SLR bonds has been withdrawn by the RBI.

(iv) World Bank has been requested to consider the proposal for providing assistance to the NCDC.

(v) The Government has constituted a Steering Group under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group.

Advisory Council on Trade and Industry

*103. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation for agriculture at present is 5.1 per cent, which is inadequate to meet the growing requirements of funds in this sector;

(b) whether the Advisory Council on Trade and Industry has suggested that the allocation be raised to 7.1 per cent; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The public outlay for agriculture including that for irrigation and flood control, which directly benefits agriculture, is 11.4 percent during the 9th Five Year Plan.

(b) The Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Trade and Industry has suggested to increase the plan allocation of agriculture in the 9th Plan from 5.1 per cent to 7.1 per cent.

(c) In view of the (a) above, question does not arise.

Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas

*104. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether poverty in both rural and urban areas of the country has come down significantly between 1987-88 and 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether after 1993-94 it continued to rise;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The estimates of poverty in rural areas has come down from 39.09 per cent in 1987-88 to 37.27 per cent in 1993-94. The estimates of poverty in urban areas during the same period has come down from 38.2 per cent to 32.36 per cent.

(c) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and State level using quinquennial National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 based on the NSS quinquennial consumption expenditure data of the 50th Round. The next quinquennial

survey on consumer expenditure data is being conducted during the year 1999. As such, the estimates of poverty after 1993-94 are not yet available.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is a three pronged action against poverty. These are; (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting the minimum needs, alleviation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society etc., and (iii) direct programmes and asset building for the poor. In the Ninth Plan, the Basic Minimum Services (BMS) programme has been introduced to ensure access to all the people living in both rural and urban areas to seven basic services in a time bound manner. Besides, Special Action Plans, covering specific aspects of social and physical infrastructure, agriculture, information technology & water policy, have been evolved in the Ninth Plan in order to provide actionable time bound targets with adequate resources, which will also help the poor. The wage and self-employment schemes for the poor are proposed to be streamlined and rationalised in order to make them more effective.

Terrorism in SAARC Countries

*105. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether member countries of SAARC have worked out any action programme to combat terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith salient features therefor; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) SAARC countries signed a Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism in November, 1987. This came into force in August 1988 following ratification by all member States. A SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk has also been established in Colombo. Meetings of Police Officials take place periodically to review the implementation of the Convention. Some SAARC member States are still to enact enabling legislation to give effect to Convention.

Indians in Gulf Jails

*106. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: