

U.S. - USSR Agreement on Risk Reduction

2907. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States and the USSR have signed an agreement to set up nuclear 'risk reduction centres' in Washington and Moscow; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agreement was signed on the 15th September this year. It sets up "Risk Reduction Centres" in Washington and Moscow with the aim of reducing the possibility of a nuclear conflict resulting from accident, technical malfunctioning, misunderstanding or miscalculation.

Gap in Rural-Urban Household Assets

2908. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap in rural urban household assets;

(b) if so, what is the magnitude thereof; and

(c) the measures contemplated to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) According to the 37th Round of National Sample Survey, the average value of total assets per reporting household as on 30th June, 1981 was Rs. 36133 in Rural Areas and Rs. 40890 in Urban Areas.

(b) The gap between the average value

of assets in rural and urban areas comes to Rs. 4757 per reporting household.

(c) Removal of disparities in rural and urban population remains the central concern of planning in India. Consistent with this objective, the Seventh Plan development strategy and the pattern of growth emerging from it are expected to bridge the gap by reducing poverty in the rural areas. The emphasis on accelerated agricultural growth, adoption of special measures to increase productivity and incomes of small and marginal farmers, implementation of the minimum needs programme and the expansion of irrigation facilities will make a substantial contribution in bridging the gap by increasing the assets of the rural poor. In addition, the Seventh Five Year Plan also includes a number of anti-poverty and employment promotion programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) especially designed to raise incomes and productivity of the people below poverty line. IRDP specially aims to achieve the objective of poverty removal by providing income generating assets to the poor rural households

Expenditure on P.M.'s Visit to Vancouver

2909. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the Prime Minister's visit to Vancouver including his staff member's and the pressmen;

(b) whether efforts were made to keep the expenditure to the minimum; and

(c) if so, the planned and the actual expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.