

**THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):**

(a) Based on the quick and provisional tabulation of 43rd round (July, 1987 to June, 1988) of the National Sample Survey data on household consumer expenditure, the number of people living below poverty line in the country has been estimated at 232.38 million for the year 1987-88.

(b) The entitlement under Public Distribution System is of universal nature. The State Governments/U.T. Administrations have been advised from time to time to strengthen the Public Distribution System especially in remote, far-flung areas, Harijan Basties, Tribal areas etc., in which the bulk of the poor people live. They have also been advised to introduce mobile fair price shops in such remote areas where setting up regular shops is not feasible. Financial assistance is provided to State Govts/UT Administrations for purchase of vans under a Scheme for the purpose.

[*Translation*]

**Medium Irrigation Projects of Madhya Pradesh Pending with Union Government**

2557. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of medium irrigation schemes in Madhya Pradesh which are under the consideration of Union Government;

(b) the names of medium irrigation schemes relating to Rajgarh district therefrom; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Five medium irrigation projects are Baha, Sutiapat

Mahuar, Gej and Barchar.

(b) None.

(c) Techno-economic Appraisal of these projects has been completed and comments sent to the State Government for compliance.

**Import of Sugar**

2558. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct an inquiry in the alleged bunglings made in import of sugar during October-November, 1989; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). At present certain preliminary investigations relating to import of sugar have been undertaken by the Investigating Agencies of the Government.

**Contract System in FCI**

2559. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether contract system is still continuing in the Food Corporation of India, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Food Corporation of India have issued instructions to discontinue the contract system in the Corporation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) The Food Corporation of India is having