

DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No case of fraud relating to computer import has come to the notice of Government. Custom House, Bombay has reported the import of Desk top publishing systems consisting of Personal Computers, Laser Printers, Local Area Networks and associated software under the name "photo composing machines". These imports are covered by the flexibility provisions (of paras 177 and 215) of the Import-Export Policy applicable to REP/Additional Licence holders for non-OTL Capital Goods, and are, therefore, permissible at present.

Strategy for Reduction in Poverty

4896. **SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any critical analysis of the Seventh Plan strategy for antipoverty programmes and its achievements have been made by Government;

(b) if so, the overall economic growth and reduction in poverty particularly in the rural areas of the country;

(c) the States which have shown significant reduction in poverty and the reasons for unsatisfactory implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes in other States; and

(d) the broad features of the strategy formulated by Government for poverty alleviation programmes during the Eighth Plan period?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). During the Seventh Plan period, reduction of poverty was sought to be achieved through the dual process of economic growth and poverty alleviation programmes. The esti-

mates based on provisional results of the National Sample Survey for the year 1987-88 show that the poverty in rural areas has come down to 32.66 per cent from 40.4 per cent estimated for the year 1983-84. The overall economic growth, as reflected in the growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1987-88 over the year 1983-84, was 18.3 per cent.

(c) The comparative provisional estimates of poverty for 17 large States for the year 1983-84 and 1987-88 show that the following States have recorded a significant reduction (i.e. reduction by higher percentage points than the national average) in poverty over this period: Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. While all States took up implementation of poverty alleviation programmes with vigour, progress has been uneven depending, among other factors, on the base level of development reached earlier, the resource strength, administrative efficiency, decentralisation and impact of natural phenomena such as drought, floods, etc.

(d) Strategy for poverty alleviation programme during the Eighth Plan period is being evolved. The new strategy is expected to concentrate on poverty alleviation through accelerated employment generation along with a more effective and better targeted provision of basic services to vulnerable groups. Details of the programmes would be incorporated in the Plan document.

Inclusion of Bellary in Hyderabad Development Board

4897. **SHRI H.C. SRIKANTIAH:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had sent a study team to Karnataka to study the inclusion of Bellary in the Hyderabad-Karnataka Development Board;