

Curbs on conspicuous and ostentatious consumption

4936. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to curb conspicuous and ostentatious consumption of articles to reduce inequalities in the society; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). The Government is committed to curb conspicuous and ostentatious consumption. The steps include launching a sustained and multi-pronged drive against black money and keeping a strict vigil on vulgar display of wealth. It has been decided to recast various provisions of the Act relating to "Benami" transactions to make it more difficult for the economic offenders to hold wealth in "Benami" forms. Administrative curbs against black money are being backed by economic measures. With a view to curbing tax evasion and conspicuous consumption, the Budget for the year 1990-91 has significantly tightened the Gift Tax laws. It has also raised substantially the excise duty on a wide range of luxury items usually consumed by the affluent groups.

Steps to Check Unemployment and Poverty

4937. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the overall growth rate during the last three years has been more than five per cent whereas there has been

considerable increase in unemployment and poverty;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the growth rate vis-a-vis the growth in unemployment and poverty during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the remedial steps contemplated in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c). The overall growth rate during the last three years has been more than 5 per cent, but the year-wise estimates for unemployment and poverty for the last three years are not available.

(d) Poverty alleviation and increase in employment are the abiding concerns of planned development. In this context, some areas of thrust in the approach to the Eighth Five Year Plan, now being evolved, would lay a greater emphasis on the development of rural sector, a sharper focus on women's role in economic activity and employment.

[*Translation*]

Cantonment Boards in Madhya Pradesh

4938. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on construction and development works in each cantonment area of Madhya Pradesh separately during the last three years; and

(b) the number of cantonments facing drinking water problem and the remedial steps taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) There are 5 Cantonments

in Madhya Pradesh. The expenditure incurred on construction and development

works in each Cantonment is given below:—

(Amount in Rs.)

S. No.	Name of the Cantonment	Expenditure incurred		
		1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Saugar	10,35,200/-	4,29,870/-	5,68,000/-
2.	Mhow	5,87,350/-	10,96,480/-	13,80,700/-
3.	Jabalpur	18,85,000/-	43,43,000/-	78,53,000/-
4.	Morar	5,01,215/-	4,81,342/-	1,86,059/-
5.	Pachmarhi	2,17,506/-	1,76,688/-	3,27,760/- (Estimated)

(b) All cantonments face the water problem to a greater or lesser degree. Various augmentation schemes have been prepared and some are under execution.

Scheme for improving standard of sports

4939. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new scheme for improving the standard of sports is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Establishment of Bharat Bhavan hostels

4940. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants

Commission has proposed to establish Bharat Bhavan hostels in selected universities throughout the country;

(b) if so, the number of Bharat Bhavan Hostels proposed to be established and the estimated amount to be spent thereon;

(c) the objectives behind the establishment of the Bharat Bhavan Hostels; and

(d) whether these Bharat Bhavan Hostels will be established in each university?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):
(a) to (d). The University Grants Commission proposes to establish Bharat Bhavan Hostels in some selected universities in order to offer opportunity to students from different parts of the country to better understand cultural perspective of educational, social and cultural integration. U.G.C. proposes to establish 35 Hostel Complexes in a phased programme, depending upon the availability of funds. Each Complex would consist of six four or two units of 50 rooms per unit. The estimated cost of one unit is around Rs. 28.42 lakhs. So far, U.G.C. has agreed to provide Rs. one crore for Bharat Bhavan Hostel Complex in Delhi University.