

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) According to the Minorities Commission, the Members and Chairman furnish their tour reports to the Commission whenever considered necessary by them.

(b) and (c). The number of tours undertaken by the Chairman and Members during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 were as follows :—

	1983-84	1984-85
1. Chairman	15	16
2. Member (Ven. Kushok G. Bakula)	1	1
3. Member (Gyani Sujan Singh)	20	17
4. Member (Shri N. F. Suntook) (joined on 2.8.1983)	1	3
5. Member (Smt. Annie Thayil) (joined on 6.8.83)	5	8

The tours were undertaken by the Chairman/Members to attend to the problems of various minority communities. The number of tours undertaken were neither excessive nor involved huge expenditure.

[*Translation*]

Persons Below Poverty Line as per National Sample Survey

6611. SHRIMATI SUNDERWATI NAWAL PRABHAKAR : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has constituted an advisory Committee to assess the number of persons living below poverty line as per the 1983 survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation;

(b) whether the Perspective Planning Division of the Commission had also assessed this number earlier; and

(c) if so, how did the necessity of constituting a fresh advisory Committee arise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Agreement with USSR for Exchange of Scientists

6612. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India have recently signed an agreement in the field of Science and Technology with the Government of USSR;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) whether that agreement envisaged exchange of Scientists between the two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (c). An Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation was signed between the two Governments in October 1972. It provides for short-term and long-term exchange of scientists, exchange of documentation and information, arrangement of bilateral workshops, and joint research programmes in areas of mutual interest.

A meeting of the Indo-USSR Sub-Commission on Science and Technology (which meets alternately in New Delhi and Moscow) was held in Moscow during February 1985. The progress of implementing the Agreement was discussed at this meeting and a Protocol was signed regarding the programmes to be pursued during the next three years. It was decided that added thrust would be given to a few areas like Biotechnology, Catalysis, and Modelling for Meteorological Forecasting. More recently, during April 1985, the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Indian National Science Academy have also agreed upon a Programme of Cooperation for the years 1985-1990.