

made for the protection of environment and ecological balance in order to meet the situation caused by the disruption of ecological balance as a result of excessive population pressures on natural resources in the Seventh Five Year Plan ; and

(b) the steps being taken now in this regard indicating the reasons for not paying due attention to this aspect while formulating previous Plans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b). In the formulation of the Seventh Five Year Plan, several measures have been identified and programmes formulated for the protection of the environment and ecological balance. In recognition of the need to evolve a developmental strategy with environmental conservation, integrated and multi-disciplinary programmes for the sustenance of natural ecosystems have been identified and new approaches evolved. Some of the salient programmes include :

- Integrated Eco-Development Research Programme with active participation of universities/ voluntary agencies ;
- Organisation of Eco-Development Camps ;
- Deployment of Eco-Task Forces for soil conservation, afforestation and stabilisation of fragile slopes ;
- Eco-Development of degraded eco-systems with reference to watershed management, arid-land development, mangroves ;
- Creation of National Parks, Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserves ;
- Integrated Mountain Development ;
- Environmental Education, Training and Awareness ;
- Environmental research promotion ;

- Pollution monitoring and control ;
- Environmental impact assessment ;
- Natural resource conservation ;
- Setting up structures at the state level for undertaking environmental programmes ; etc.

• A separate department of Environment at the Centre was created in November, 1980. Prior to this, environmental conservation and protection programmes were identified and implemented through the departments of Science & Technology, Forests, Laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Works & Housing etc. It was after the creation of a department in the Sixth Plan period that a systematic impetus was provided to environmental policies and issue and an organised, sustained effort has been made since then. In the Seventh Plan, the programmes identified in the Sixth Plan would be further intensified, in addition to attention to new thrust areas.

Steps to check inflation

296. SHRIMATI CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rates of inflation for the last three years ;

(b) the steps taken by Government to check inflation ; and

(c) the extent of success achieved through these steps ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) The rate of inflation in terms of wholesale price index on a point to point basis was 7.1 per cent in 1982-83, 8.3 per cent in 1983-84 and 4.8 per cent in the current financial year up to January 5, 1985.

(b) The steps taken include the strengthening of the public distribution system including procurement and buffer stocking of cereals, augmentation of domestic supplies of such items as edible oils and sugar, remunerative prices to farmers to encourage higher production enforcement of fiscal discipline, economy in Government expenditure and mopping up of excess liquidity in the system.

(c) It may be seen from the movement of the index that the inflation rate has come down appreciably.

[English]

**Application by Union Carbide Ltd.
Bhopal for scientific experiment
regarding security risk**

297. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee has been constituted to screen applications for scientific experiments regarding security risk ;

(b) if so, whether the Union Carbide Ltd. Bhopal had submitted any application to start Research and Development Wing before the Committee ;

(c) whether the Committee had approved the same : and

(d) if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (d) A proposal was received from Union Carbide India Limited for entering into an agreement with Union Carbide Agricultural Products Company, USA, for rendering certain technical services relating to agricultural pesticides. A final decision in respect of this proposal is still to be taken. However, according to the available information, Union Carbide India Limited have been carrying out tests of pesticides compounds deve-

loped or supplied by Union Carbide Agricultural products company, USA on the tropical insects/pests. :

Shortage of small coins, one and two rupee notes in Gujarat

298. SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Adivasis and other weaker sections in various villages, towns and cities of Valsad, Surat, Baroda, Chota Udaipur Districts of Gujarat and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Union Territory are facing lot of difficulties in getting coins and one and two rupee notes ;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to supply adequate number of coins and notes to these areas ; and

(c) the number of such coins and notes that have been supplied to various banks and treasuries in these areas from 1st January, 1981 to 31st December, 1984 with year-wise details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Reports regarding shortages of coins and currency notes of small denominations have been received from different parts of the country. In response to a request received from the Finance Department of the Government in Gujarat in April, 1984 for large amount of small coins and notes to make payments to tribals against forest products in the interior of forest areas, the Ahmedabad Office of the Reserve Bank of India and confirmed to the State Government that supplies, consistent with stocks, are being made to various forest areas such as Dharampur and Chikhli in Valsad District and Chhota Udaipur in Vadodra District besides certain other forest areas of the State.

(c) The information is being collected.