

commencement of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the criteria for fixing the poverty line;

(c) the steps taken during the Seventh Five Year Plan to lift people above the poverty line and the details thereof; and

(d) whether any specific steps have been taken in this regard under the twenty Point Programme in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI):

(a) At the time of commencement of the Seventh Five Year Plan, the estimates of persons living below poverty line were available for the year 1983-84. These estimates were prepared on the basis of the results of the 58th round of National Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure. According to these estimates 118.1 lakh persons were below poverty line in Orissa.

(b) the main criterion for determining the poverty line is calorie consumption. The Task Force on "Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand" constituted by Planning Commission (1979) defined the poverty line as per capita monthly expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The poverty line defined this way covers the expenditure on food and non-food items and ensures adequacy of calorie consumption. The poverty line is updated using the implicit private consumption deflator as proxy for price rise in consumption basket.

(c) The Seventh Five Year Plan envisages a 5% annum growth in the economy through investments in agriculture, industry

and infrastructure in order to generate higher incomes and employment. Besides this, investments in poverty alleviation programmes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) have been considerably intensified during the Seventh Plan. Special Programmes are also being implemented for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as Hilly and backward areas.

(d) The 20 Point Programme is an integral part of the plan for removal of poverty, raising productivity and improving the quality of life. The programme was restructured in 1986 in the light of past achievements and objectives of the Seventh Plan, and the focus on eradication of poverty was sharpened. IRDP, NREP, RLEGP, Distribution of Ceiling surplus land, development of village and small industries, etc. will continue to be the main programmes for generating employment, strengthening the resource base of the poor and raising their incomes. For 1988-89, a scheme for constructing dug wells is being taken up as part of NREP/RLEGP so as to provide an irrigation source for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes people belonging to small and marginal farmers' categories. For promotion of village and small industries and their balanced dispersal, a new policy package has been initiated in 1988-89 which, inter-alia, envisages setting up of growth centres to be endowed with all infrastructural facilities.

Purchase of Soviet Planes

701. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:
SHRI KALIPRASAD PANDEY:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE:
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA
WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to purchase planes from USSR under the Indo-Soviet Cooperation in the field of Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, the details of the planes to be obtained and other fields in which cooperation is proposed to be extended;

(c) whether the Soviet Planes consume more fuel as compared to other available planes; and

(d) if so, the reasons for going in for the Soviet planes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (d): Offers for sale of aircraft to India have been received from the manufacturers of a number of countries. The Aviation Industry of Soviet Union has also offered to sell aircraft, like YAK-42, AN-28, TU-204 and IL-96. Consultations have been held with the manufacturers covering technical matters, like fuel consumption, carriage capacity, range of aircraft, terms and currency of payment etc. The acquisition of aircraft has not been finalised. The Soviet offer is considered for reasons of lower unit cost and payment in easy terms in Indian currency and good Technology.

[*Translation*]

Problems faced by Flying Clubs

702. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the difficulties being faced by flying clubs in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to revive all the flying clubs in the country and to increase the number of flying hours;

(c) if so, the details of the scheme proposed/under consideration in this regard; and

(d) if not, the names of flying clubs which are proposed to be closed down by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (c). The majority of the flying clubs are functioning satisfactorily. The Aero Club of India has been provided with 25 microlight aircraft for further strengthening the training programmes of these clubs. There is also a proposal to increase the subsidised flying hours.

(d) There is no proposal to close any of the flying clubs.

Scheme to Attract Indian Talents from Abroad

703. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new plan to attract Indian talents in Science and Technology who during the past few years had gone to other countries to better their prospects; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan and the response to it from our scientists and technicians abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b). A number of measures