

(c) At this meeting, the Chairman, Industrial Development Bank of India, while commenting on the proposal to set up a separate financial institution for the small scale sector had felt that while it is for the Govt. to decide the need for setting up of such an institution, the resultant duplication of institutional agencies in the field of refinance should be considered and also that an organisation which would deal only with the decentralised sector may be deprived of the flexibility which is available to I.D.B.I. and which enables it to provide funds at concessional rates to the small scale sector.

Elimination of Rural Poverty

10334. PROF. P. G., MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidence of rural poverty has increased or decreased during the last 3 years 1976 to 1978;

(b) if so, full available facts thereof;

(c) concrete steps taken in 1977 and 1978 by Government to gradually and systematically eliminate this phenomenon and problem of rural poverty; and

(d) the results, if any, achieved to-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) and (b). Estimates of rural poverty for these years are not available for making an assessment of changes in incidence of such poverty during the years 1976 to 1978

(c) and (d). Various measures and programmes for achieving the objective of reduction of poverty are spelt out in the draft Five Year Plan (1978-83). The highest priority has been accorded to agriculture and allied sectors, irrigation and village and cottage industries which have the greatest capacity to absorb surplus labour. An expanded minimum needs programme has also been provided for so that the living standards of the poor people can be directly supplemented by the provision of certain minimum basic amenities. The Annual Plans for 1977-78 and 1978-79 were formulated keeping these priorities in view.

It is too early to assess the impact of these plans on the living standards of the

Expenditure incurred by the Public Enterprise/Corporation

10335. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) administrative expenditure incurred by each of the Public enterprise/corporation under his Ministry during the last three years; and

(b) the elements of expenditure not included in it and the consideration thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Syrian interest for Indian know-how

10336. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Syria have shown keen interest in Indian expertise and know-how for its industrial projects; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A framework of wide ranging economic and industrial cooperation between India and Syria was established during the visit of the Union Minister of Industry Shri George Fernandes to Syria in October, 1977. This was expressed in a Protocol concluded at Damascus on 22nd October, 1977. Follow up has been effected resulting in a scientific and technical cooperation agreement on 16th February, 1978, a new trade agreement concluded during the visit of the Syrian President to India in April, 1978, feasibility reports of Indian firms on several industrial projects in Syria and deputation of experts and expert teams from India for specific industrial projects of cooperation.

Supply of Scarce Inputs

10338. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is under examination of Government for a raw