

the first five months of 1991, approximately 1100 grievances relating to service matters were received in the Ministry. In addition, nearly 15,000 grievances relating to retirement benefits were received from retired Government servants.

(b) and (c) Grievances relating to service matters of serving Government employees arise from a large variety of factors like promotion, seniority, increment, disciplinary measures, provision of amenities in the work place and so on. These are passed on to the organisations concerned which take appropriate action according to the provisions of the relevant rules, regulations and instructions. Similarly, grievances received from pensioners are passed on to the respective pension sanctioning and pension disbursing authorities for necessary action. There is no centralised machinery for compiling data relating to grievances received either from the serving Government employees or from pensioners.

(d) and (e) Government is alive to the need for prompt and effective redress of grievances of its employees. Ministries, Departments and other major offices have been advised to set up a grievance redress machinery under a designated Staff Grievance Officer (SGO). Such a machinery has been set up by and large in all the major organisations of Government.

Besides this, there is the statutory mechanism under the Administrative Tribunal Act of 1985 which provides for a tribunal exclusively for the adjudication or trial of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service. In addition, the Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) provides an important and effective forum for redress of grievances of Government servants on general issues.

Request to increase the Commission on Sugar and Kerosene in Kerala

1097. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the ration dealers asso-

ciation of Kerala to increase the commission on sugar and kerosene; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All Kerala Retail Ration Dealers Association has represented for enhancement of commission for distribution of levy sugar and kerosene by ration dealers in Kerala.

As regards levy sugar dealers' margins for Kerala were fixed in September, 1987. A request from Government of Kerala to revise the margin, which has been received by Ministry of Food, is being examined.

As regards Kerosene, the Oil Price Review Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has recently submitted its recommendations on various issues referred to them including dealers' commission on Kerosene. These are under examination by that Ministry.

People below Poverty Line

1098. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who were living below poverty line during the Seventh Plan Period, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to improve their living conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Provisional estimate of poverty is available for the year 1987-88 based on the 43rd Round of National Sample Survey data on household consumer expenditure. The estimated number of persons living below poverty line is 237.67 million in the year. The State-wise number of persons below the poverty line is indicated in the enclosed statement.

(b) Apart from developmental efforts at creation of income and employment through growth in agriculture, industry and services, etc., special programmes for alleviation of poverty are also being implemented. These include programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana as well as some special programmes for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

STATEMENT

Number and percentage of population below the poverty line by States (1987-88)

S. No.	States and U.Ts.	Number of persons (Lakhs)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	195.70
2	Assam	52.89
3	Bihar	336.54
4	Gujarat	73.25
5	Haryana	18.15
6	Himachal Pradesh	4.52
7	Jammu & Kashmir	9.79
8	Karnataka	136.46
9	Kerala	48.98
10	Madhya Pradesh	224.97
11	Maharashtra	214.10
12	Orissa	135.12
13	Punjab	13.88
14	Rajasthan	99.54
15	Tamil Nadu	176.85
16	Uttar Pradesh	448.34
17	West Bengal	173.45
18	Small States & U.Ts.	14.2
19	All India	2376.7

Note: 1. The above estimates are derived by using the poverty line of Rs. 49.09 per capita per month at 1973-74 prices corresponding to daily calorie requirement of 2400 per person

in rural areas and the poverty line of Rs. 56.64 per capita per month corresponding to calorie requirement of 2100 in urban areas.

- For up-dating the poverty line for 1987-88 C.S.O. Private Consumption deflator has been used.
- These calculations are based on the draft report of 43rd Round of National Sample Survey data on household consumer expenditure (Report No. 372, "Report on the Fourth Quinquennial Survey on Consumer Expenditure, N.S.S.O., June, 1990").
- The number of people below poverty line relates to the population as on 1st March, 1988.
- State-wise poverty ratios have been estimated using the same methodology as was used at the time of formulation of Seventh Five Year Plan. Since then a number of issues have been raised about the methodology of poverty estimation and these issues are being considered by an expert group headed by Dr. D.T. Lakdawala.
- The estimates presented here are likely to get revised in the light of the recommendations of the Expert Group.

[Translation]

Interim Relief to Victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1099. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have requested the Union Government to provide an additional allotment to the tune of Rs. 24 crore annually for distribution among the remaining one lakh victims of Bhopal Gas tragedy; and

(b) if so, when this additional amount is likely to be provided?