

(e) The Board of Directors of Kendriya Bhandar is empowered to take necessary action in the matter at the appropriate time.

Secret Service Fund

2251. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "CBI wines, dines on secret funds" appearing in 'Hindustan Times' dated April 2, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CBI has reported that the Secret Service Fund is operated in accordance with the relevant guidelines which inter-alia permit extending hospitality to visiting foreign police dignitaries. The amount so spent is a small fraction of the expense from the Secret Service Fund of the CBI.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.

People Below Poverty Line

2252. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey recently to know total population in the country and the trend of percentage increased every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the percentage of people living below poverty line, State-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the standard of people living below poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The last survey was conducted in 1991 Census. However, a sample survey of births and deaths known as Sample Registration System (SRS) is being carried out regularly by the Office of the Registrar General, India in randomly selected villages and urban blocks spread throughout the country. The main objective of the survey is to provide reliable estimates of birth and death rates at the state and national levels. It also provides other measures of fertility and mortality for bigger (with population 10 million or more) states and the country as a whole.

The annual growth rate of population measured in terms of natural growth rate is obtained as the difference between annual estimates of birth and death rates. The latest estimate of natural growth rate from SRS, at the national level, is 1.85 percent and relates to the year 1996. The estimates of natural growth rate of population (percent), and available from SRS for the year 1991 to 1996, at the national level and for the states and union territories are given in the Statement-I.

(c) The latest State-wise estimates of percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line are available for the year 1993-94. These are estimated from the consumer expenditure survey of the 50th round of the National Sample Survey Organisation. These estimates are enclosed as Statement-II.

(d) There is a three pronged action against poverty. These are: (a) acceleration of economic growth, (b) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting the minimum needs, alleviation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society etc., and (c) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and asset building for the poor. The main among these programmes are the Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nehru Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Griha Kalyan Yojana, Urban Basic Services for the poor and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme.