

VELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) Different pay scales were prescribed on the basis of the number of publications available in each language in the Library at the time. However, by Finance Ministry O.M. No. 19 (1)/IC/86 dated 24.7.90 this difference has been eliminated.

Zirconium Factory

*150 SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government for the establishment of a Zirconium Factory in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereon; and

(c) whether it is to be located in a place where there are raw materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M.G.K. MANON): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is proposed to expend the Zirconium production facilities at a new place called Palayakayal in the Chidambarnar District of Tamil Nadu.

(c) The location viz. Palayakayal has been selected keeping in view, among other things, availability of raw materials.

Impact of Anti-Poverty Programmes

*151. SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of anti-poverty programmes on the rural poverty; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken to

gear up these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEYGOBARDHAN): (a) During the Six and the Seventh Plan periods reduction of rural poverty was sought to be achieved through the dual process of economic growth and poverty alleviation programmes. The estimates based on provisional results of the National Sample Survey for the year 1987-88 show that the poverty in rural areas has come down to 32/66 per cent as compared to 40.4 per cent estimated for the year 1983.84 and 51.2 per cent estimated for the year 1977-78.

(b) The approach to Eighth Five-Year Plan envisages an accelerated process of reduction in rural poverty primarily through maximising productive employment opportunities. This is sought to be achieved through more dispersed growth, decentralised integrated area development with the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Voluntary organisations and other groups of social activists. Details would be incorporated in the Eighth Five-Year Plan document.

Formulation of A New Forest Policy

*152. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new forest policy relating to tribals residing in and outside the forests;

(b) if so, the concessions and facilities given to them in this new policy; and

(c) by when the policy is going to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT