

Complaints have however, been received against some pensioners, that they have managed to get pension by fraudulent means by furnishing incorrect or false information. Such complaints are promptly referred to the concerned State Government for verification. If, on verification, the complaint appears to be *prime-facie* true, the pension sanctioned is suspended and show-cause notice is issued to the pensioner. Such cases are finally reviewed on the basis of explanation received from the freedom fighters in further consultation with the State Government, if necessary, and pension is cancelled or restored as the case may be. Payments already made are also recovered if pension is found to have been obtained by fraudulent means.

Indo-Soviet Joint Space Flight

*876. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH :
SMT. KISHORI SINHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that another Indo-Soviet joint space flight is being planned;

(b) what would be the main tasks the Indian cosmonauts would perform in space; and

(c) the result of the earlier space journey with particular reference to its experimental findings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) At present, there is no plan for another Indo-Soviet joint space flight.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of experiments related to bio-medical aspects, material sciences and remote sensing were conducted. The data has been analysed and published in scientific journals. The remote sensing experiments have been particularly useful to a number of agencies in studies related to

soils forestry, geology, water resources, land use and agriculture.

Air Purity Monitoring of Cities

877. SHRI D.B. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cities/towns in the country where air purity is being monitored; and

(b) the number of air purity monitoring stations in such cities/towns having a population of more than one lakh ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) and (b). Air quality is being monitored in 17 cities/towns and 59 stations have so far been set up. Among the cities/towns covered through the monitoring programme, there are 3 to 5 stations for each city/town having a population of more than one lakh.

[Translation]

Study Regarding Poverty-Stricken People

*878. SHRI MEWA SINGH GILL :
SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study report of the National Council for Applied Economic Research wherein it has been stated that the number of poverty-stricken people has increased;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report;

(c) whether Government have given a serious thought to this report; and

(d) if so, the conclusion drawn by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLY (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). Government are aware of the Study Report of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The study referred to is the Paper "Focus on Some

Major Imbalances in the Indian Economy" presented on 5th April, 1986 on the occasion of the Annual Day of the NCAER. The NCAER Study indicates that in rural areas the proportion of people below the poverty line between 1970-71 and 1981-82 has decreased significantly, viz., from 56.90 per cent in 1970-71 to 48.54 per cent in 1981-82. These findings are based on a survey conducted by NCAER by resurveying in 1981-82 the same households that were surveyed in 1970-71. The study has pointed out that despite the operational inefficiencies of Government anti-poverty programmes their impact has not only been positive but significant.

(c) and (d). Government have examined the Report of the NCAER Study and have noticed that the findings of the NCAER Study do not contradict the trend in the poverty ratio over time as estimated by the Planning Commission.

[English]

Equipments for Narora Atomic Power Plant

*879. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Narora Atomic Power Plant is experiencing delays of 3 to 4 years in getting the delivery of major nuclear equipment from Indian Industries on whom firm orders were placed;

(b) if so, the reasons for such inability to maintain delivery schedules; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to eliminate such delays in the delivery schedule of sophisticated and complex nuclear equipment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (c). While there have been delays of three to four years in the supply of equipment to Narora Atomic Power Project, the total construction time will not be affected by more than a year. Industry had to upgrade

existing facilities, set up additional facilities and also undertake development efforts to evolve suitable manufacturing procedures involving more stringent requirements. The Narora-designs have been standardised for subsequent 235 MWe units and manufacture of major equipment is not expected to cause any delay to future projects.

Protection against Extinction of Tribals

*880. SHRI I. RAMA RAI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the tribes are fast approaching extinction due to the health hazards and other difficulties;

(b) if so, the steps taken of prevent their extinction;

(c) whether there is a setup to identify the nomadic tribals and to look after their welfare;

(d) whether Government propose to alleviate the pathetic condition of tribes whose profession is basket making known as 'Koragas', in some parts of Karnataka and Kerala; and

(e) whether there is a proposal to have compulsory residential education for their children ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Attention is being paid to the health problems of tribal groups particularly the primitive tribal groups.

(c) There is no separate set up for them. All tribal groups are covered under the poverty alleviation programmes and the Tribal sub-Plan schemes.

(d) The Koragas in Karnataka and Kerala have been identified as primitive tribal groups for according special attention.

(e) No, Sir. Educational facilities are provided through residential schools and incentives.