

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a) The National Integration Council last met only recently on 21.1.1984. Dates for the next meeting of the Council or its Sub-Committees have not yet been fixed.

(b) The Council and its Committees have been addressing themselves to the task of monitoring national integration and maintaining communal peace in broad terms Pursuant to the deliberations of the Council and its Committees in the past and on the basis of experience gained of communal incidents, comprehensive guidelines have been issued to the State Governments for arresting the outbreak of communal violence and maintaining communal peace.

**Reduction of Poverty during Seventh Five Year Plan**

\*58. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister OF PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission have suggested three alternative strategies for reduction of poverty during the Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the alternative strategies so proposed ;

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon ; and

(d) the number of persons estimated to be below poverty line at the end of 1983-84, 1984-85 and at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan as per the strategy decided upon by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) According to the Approach document to the Seventh Five Year Plan, the percentage of persons below the poverty

line will be sought to be reduced to 10 per cent 1994-95. The precise estimates of the number of people below the poverty line by the end of the Sixth and the Seventh Plans, are yet to be worked out. No estimates of people below the poverty line by the end of 1983-84 have been made.

**Enactment of a law against Misuse of Religious Platforms for Politics**

\*59. SHRI K. MALLANNA :  
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for enactment of a law against misuse of religious platforms for politics ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) when that legislation will be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (c) No such legislation is being considered by the Government. But the Code of ethics for political parties under the consideration of the Sub-Committee of the National Integration Council Counsels voluntary restraint against such misuse.

**Abolition of Religious Holidays and Declaration of Saturdays and Sundays as Holidays**

\*60. SHRI R. R. BHOLE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many holidays were declared by Government in the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 ;

(b) how many are of Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and other religions ; and