

(b) if so, whether any formal move has been initiated in this direction and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the viewpoints of some of the existing permanent members of the Security Council like USA, Russia, U.K and France have been elicited in this regard; and

(d) if so, the response received from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) ₹65,8 cr. Indian candidature was announced during the 49th UN General Assembly session in 1994. Since then our candidature has been reiterated at all subsequent General Assemblies of the UN, including at the 53rd (1998) and 54th (1999) Sessions, through statements made by our Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister respectively.

(c) and (d) Russia has supported the Indian candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council at the UN, while France has publicly expressed its support for Indian candidature during the recent visit of the Indian President to France. The question of India's candidature has also been taken up with the US and UK.

Population and Ratio of Poverty Line

*648. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDAR:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the population at the time of Independence and the ratio of below poverty line and above poverty line at that time; and

(b) the population now and the ratio of below poverty line and above poverty line at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The population and poverty estimates are not available for the year 1947. As per 1951 Census India's population was 361.1 million. Poverty estimates

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are not available for the 1950s.

(b) As per the latest Census, India's population is estimated as 846.3 million in 1991. The latest estimate of persons below and above the poverty line are available for the year 1993-94. According to this, the percentage of persons below poverty line is 36% and above poverty line is estimated as 64%. Thus, the ratio of persons below poverty line and above poverty line works out to be 0.56.

Continuous Losses in Oil Pool Account

†*649. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are suffering continuous losses in the Oil Pool Account since the year 1989-90;

(b) if so, the latest details thereof togetherwith the percentage of losses suffered, year-wise;

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government to tackle this problem;

(d) whether price of petroleum products have been increased every year in order to meet the losses; and

(e) the oil pool deficit of the country as per the latest position?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a), (b) and (e) With an objective to ensure stable prices in the country and provide subsidy/cross subsidy on petroleum products, 'oil pool account' is maintained. This pool account is expected to be self balancing over a period of time. The oil pool account has been in deficit since 1989-90 except in the years 1992-93, 1994-95, 1997-98 and 1998-99. The yearwise position of cumulative outstandings against oil companies/Government of India claims/ dues and percentage variation therein are as under:—

Cumulative outstandings of Oil Companies/ Govt. of India at the year end

Variation	Rs./Crores	%age
1989-90	1,798	
1990-91	2,908	61.73
1991-92	5,095	75.21

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.