

(d) what results have been achieved so far as a result of these two arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes Sir. The services of M/s Public Relations Attache International Inc. (PRAI) Washington owned by an Indian national have been engaged by the Economic Wing of the Embassy of India, Washington, at a total cost of \$60,000 per annum, inclusive of a retention fees \$42,000.

(b) The services of M/s Howard J. Rubinstein Associates Inc. New York have been engaged at a total cost of \$2,50,000 per annum, inclusive of a retention fee of \$1,50,000.

(c) (i) The PRAI primarily supplements the efforts of the Embassy of India, Washington D. C. in developing contacts with individuals and organisations of relevance to Indo-US economic cooperation.

(ii) M/s Howard J. Rubenstein Associates Inc., New York have been given a specific objective, namely, to use the interest generated by the Festival of India in order to project developments in modern India.

(d) The work of both the firms has been found satisfactory and useful.

Setting up of Hotels in Soviet Union by the Indian Hotel Industry

283. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRI K. VASUDEVA
PANICKER:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up/permit Indian hotel industry to set up hotels in Soviet Union; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SYED): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

New method for grant of loan under IRDP

284. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the nationalised banks have adopted a new method with regard to giving of loans to beneficiaries under the Integrated Rural Development Programme; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Government have introduced a Scheme in 22 selected blocks of the country on an experimental basis with effect from 1st April, 1986 wherein the amount of loan and subsidy is given in cash directly to IRDP beneficiaries. The salient features of this Scheme are as follows:

(i) When the asset is of a standard type or marketed by reputed suppliers, the beneficiary would have the freedom to select the product of his choice. The bank can either open a savings bank account in the name of the borrower or may give him the amount in cash. The borrower would subsequently furnish to the bank a receipt of the item purchased.

(ii) Under ISB (Industry Service and Business Sector) when a number of sundry items are brought, disbursement up to Rs. 3,000 may be made in cash. This can be done either in one lump sum or in stages depending upon the items to be purchased. This will give the beneficiary requisite freedom to negotiate and settle the price for the asset of his choice. In such cases cash memos, invoices, vouchers, etc. would not be necessary and only utilisation certificate would suffice.

(iii) Regarding the programmes in animal husbandry, the Purchase Committees have been dispensed with and