

### Population living below poverty line

866. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has projected that within the existing employment and redistribution strategy the growth rate of the people living below the poverty line could be reduced to 10 per cent of the total population;

(b) whether Government are not yet possessed of reliable data relating to people living below the poverty line beyond 1972-73, if so, the steps taken to update the same;

(c) whether these figures pertaining to both urban and rural population have increased by now; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) The employment strategy of the Sixth Plan is yet to be finalised.

(b) to (d) The Commission has now estimates of percentage of people below the poverty line for the year 1977-78. According to these estimates, 50.82 per cent of the rural population, 38.19 per cent of the urban population and 48.13 per cent of the country's total population was below the poverty line. The corresponding estimates for 1972-73 were 54.09, 41.22 and 51.49 per cent respectively. Thus between 1972-73 and 1977-78 there has been some decline in the percentage of people below the poverty line.

### Gadgil Formula

867. SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received demands from the State Governments to change the "Gadgil Formula";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Chief Ministers of a few States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, in the last meeting of the National Development Council held in August, 1980, suggested a modification in the Gadgil Formula mainly with a view to providing larger Central assistance to backward States and to make the developmental outlay of States more equitable.

(c) As decided in the last meeting of the National Development Council held in August, 1980, the Central assistance to States would be allocated for the Sixth Five Year Plan, 1980-85 on the basis of modified Gadgil Formula so as to finalise the Sixth Five Year Plan according to the schedule.

### Thein Dam and Ropar Thermal Plant

868. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Thein Dam and the Ropar Thermal Plant have run into difficulties for paucity of resources, inter-State disputes and lack realistic planning.

(b) if so, the measures that are being taken to complete these two projects; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that a green signal has not yet been given to complete these projects and the cost thereof has increased enormously since the building activities started?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

The status of these projects is as below:—

**Thein Dam Multipurpose Project:** Investment approval has not yet been given by the Planning Commission, pending clarification of inter-State aspects and allocation of cost between the irrigation and power sectors. However, the State Government is proceeding with the construction of infrastructure facilities.

**Ropar Thermal Power Station:** Planning Commission gave investment approval to this project in July 1979. Financial provisions of Rs. 5 crores in 1979-80 and Rs. 10.5 crores in 1980-81 were made for this project in the approved annual plans of the State. According to the latest information furnished by the State Government, the first unit of this project will be commissioned during 1984-85.

2. The Sixth Five-Year Plan 1980-85 is in the process of finalisation. It is expected that substantial financial provisions will be available for these two projects in the new Plan.

### Proposal to create a separate Ministry for the North East Region

869. SHRI T. ALIBA IMTI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to create a separate Ministry for the North East Region; and

(b) the main considerations which weighed with Government to create such a Ministry?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Projects undertaken at the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation, Chandigarh

870. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects (old, new and sponsored) undertaken at the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), Chandigarh during the years 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81;

(b) the number of these projects completed so far and the number of those not completed within the stipulated period and what are the reasons for their non-completion;

(c) the number of these projects which were taken by the Industry for commercial exploitation; and

(d) if the commercial exploitation did not succeed, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Special Audit of CSIO

871. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Audit Party of the Accountant General, Central Revenue (AGCR) conducted a special audit of the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation, Chandigarh, in the recent past and pointed out certain irregularities and malpractices; and

(b) the irregularities and malpractices revealed thereby and the circumstances for holding an audit by AGCR when the CSIR (parent body of CSIO) is subject to Internal Audit only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) No special audit of CSIO, Chandigarh, was conducted by AGCR