

nistries and the Planning Commission and give advice in matters relating to the implementation of Plan schemes and programmes.

(b) Yes, the question of filling up is under consideration.

### Persons Living Below Poverty Line

869. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over the last five years the number of persons living below poverty line in the country has increased from 40 per cent to 47 per cent;

(b) what is the State-wise percentage of the people living below poverty line; and

(c) what is the target fixed for the Sixth Five Year Plan pertaining to eradication of poverty?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) Estimates of poverty are not available annually for the last five years.

(b) The Planning Commission has undertaken the work on preparation of State-wise estimates of poverty. The State-wise percentage of the people living below poverty line can be indicated only when these estimates are finalised.

(c) In the Draft Five Year Plan—1978—83—poverty has been defined in relation to a minimum desirable level of consumption of 2,400 calories per person per day for rural areas and 2,100 calories per person for urban areas in 1977-78. 46 per cent of the population was estimated to have a consumption level lower than this in 1977-78. Assuming a modest poverty line equivalent to 75 per cent of this consumption norm, 26 per cent of the population in 1977-78 would be living below it. With the growth of the economy at 4.7 per cent per annum, as stipulated in the Plan and with effective redistribution measures as proposed there, it would be possible to ensure that nobody remains below

that modest poverty norm in 1982—83.

### Availability of credit to small industry

870. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been evolved to make adequate credit available to small industry at a lower rate of interest;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) Yes, Sir. There are several schemes for making adequate credit available to small industry at lower rate of interest.

(b) The various schemes are as follows:—

(i) Differential Interest Rate Scheme.

(ii) Concessional Finance in backward areas under the Refinance Scheme of I.D.B.I.

(iii) Interest Subsidy on loans to Engineer Entrepreneurs.

(iv) Concessional loan to Small Scale Units.

(v) Concessional Finance in Rural Industrial Projects areas by the State Bank of India.

(vi) Concessional rate of interest on Term loans.

(vii) Seed/Margin money scheme.

(viii) Automatic Refinance Scheme of the I.D.B.I.

(c) The I.D.B.I. have been asked to coordinate, guide and monitor the entire credit requirements of the small scale sector. The Bank has already set up a separate wing to coordinate guide and monitor credit facilities by various institutions for small and cottage sector.