

(c) details of the steps taken by Government to develop the particular areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The National Sample Survey Organisation has conducted quinquennial Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys in 1977-78 and 1983. The reports of these surveys give the consumption level for different items by Expenditure class and the number of households with their composition in each expenditure class. The results contained in the report have been utilised by the Planning Commission for the estimation of the percentage and number of people below the poverty line. The people below poverty line are spread throughout the country. It is therefore, not possible to identify particular areas where such people are concentrated. The number of people below the poverty line has been estimated to be 307.3 million in 1977-78 (Revised) and 270.8 million in 1983-84 (Provisional) as per the NSSO Surveys.

(c) Does not arise. However, a number of poverty alleviation programmes like the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) which have been under implementation in the Sixth Five Year Plan aim at increasing the income of the weaker sections by the creation of assets or generating employment. These programmes will be continued at an accelerated pace in the Seventh Plan as stated in the "Approach to the Seventh Five Year Plan."

Losses in ITDC

2453. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India Tourism Development Corporation have been consistently running at a loss;

(b) whether Government are considering closing down the offices of ITDC at some places and if so, the names of such

places and reasons for closing down the offices;

(c) details of losses if any, suffered by ITDC during the first half of 1985 (January 1985 to June, 1985) as compared to the corresponding period of last year; and

(d) whether Government are considering to further expand the activities of ITDC by opening new offices of ITDC, and if so, details of places where new offices etc. are planned to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to availability of adequate transport facilities and/or lack of demand, ITDC has proposals to close down operation of its Travel and Tour units located at Bhopal, Kovalam and Bhubaneswar.

(c) The estimated profit of ITDC during Jan-Jun, 85 was of the order of Rs. 185.46 lakhs as compared to the profit of Rs. 151.20 lakhs in the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) ITDC has plans to open two new hotels at Agra and Gulmarg besides setting up of joint venture hotel projects at Guwahati, Ranchi, Puri, Bhopal, Pondicherry and Itanagar in collaboration with the respective State Governments/State Tourism Development Corporations.

[Translation]

Computers Lying Idle in Ministries

2454. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether many costly computers in various Ministries in Delhi are lying idle and their utility is negligible at present;

(b) whether funds were earmarked for introducing computer system during 1983-84, 1984-85, and 1985-86 and if so,