

(b) if so, the details of these projects; and

(c) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the available information as on 31.3.1987 in respect of projects costing over Rs. 20 crores, six projects which were approved from 1.4.1985 to 31.3.1987 have reported time and cost over runs. Two projects are in coal, one in petroleum, two in fertiliser and one in power sectors .

(c) The main reasons for the delay include problems concerning acquisition of land, clearance from environmental angle, industrial relations, equipment /material supply delays etc.

[Translation]

Value of Rupee

567. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of Indian rupee at present in comparison the value of rupee in 1970;

(b) whether the value of Indian rupee is continuously decreasing; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to stabilise it?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) and (b). The purchasing power of the rupee measured as the reciprocal of the All India Consumer Prime Index for Industrial Workers (Base; 1960 = 100) was 54.35 paise in 1970 and 14.22 paise in May, 1987 (latest available).

(c) The trust of Government's anti-inflationary policy continues to be on effective demand and supply management including strengthening of public distribution system, regulated releases of

sugar and edible oils and mopping of excess liquidity in the system. The central Government has also advised the State Governments to take strict action against traders indulging in profiteering, hoarding the black-marketing.

Interest on Provident Fund Deposits

568. SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to pay a higher rate of interest on the provident fund deposits of the Government employees;

(b) if so, the rates thereof and the date from which it would be paid; and

(c) the number of employees that will be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The rate of interest for 1987-88 on deposits in the Provident Funds of Government employees is the same as for 1986-87, that is 12% per annum.

[English]

Poverty Line

569. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the definition of poverty line keeps on changing with reference to prices and if so, what is the present level of poverty line; and

(b) whether cost of fuel, cloth, housing and health care etc. is also taken into account while determining the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Poverty line is updated periodically for price rise. The latest estimates of poverty line pertain to the year 1984-85. The updated poverty line is Rs. 107 per capita per month in rural areas