

and Rs. 122 per capita per month in urban areas at 1984-85 prices (base year of the Seven Plan).

(b) In determining the poverty line expenditure on food and non-food items have been taken into account and therefore include expenditure on fuel, clothing, housing and health care. But only the adequacy of calorie consumption has been ensured in the definition of poverty line.

Survey to Widen Direct Tax Base

570. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN
SINHA:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake a survey of potential income tax payers in major cities of the country to widen the direct tax base as reported in Hindustan Times of June 15, 1987;

(b) if so, whether this would involve a house to house survey;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of non-salaried and self employed persons are not filing income tax returns; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The provisions of section 133 B do not permit income-tax authorities to enter residential premises during the course of a survey.

(c) and (d). The number of non-salaried and self-employed persons who are having taxable income but are not filing their returns is not known. However, the Government is fully committed to combat tax evasion and every attempt is being made to bring such persons into the tax net

Foreign Debts Repayment by Developing Countries

571. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN
SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to take steps along with other developing countries at international forums to limit foreign debt repayments to a fixed percentage of export earnings.

(b) if so, whether International Monetary Fund and World Bank have agreed to this arrangement; and

(c) if not, what are their views on growing debt servicing burden of Third World countries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND
MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI
NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (c). In a report presented by the Inter-Governmental Group of Twenty four on International Monetary Affairs, a suggestion has been put forward that while resources lent by the Fund should be repaid as expeditiously as possible, such repayment, to be consistent with the purposes of the Fund should be related to the member's capacity to repay. Instead of the traditional fixed repayment schedule, a country could be required to repay only a specified proportion of its export earnings, or alternatively, a sum determined on the basis of indicators (similar to those under the contingency mechanism). This suggestion pertains to repayments to the Fund and does not refer to the general debt problem. India is a member of the Group of Twenty four.

The World Bank and the Fund have not taken any specific view on this suggestion.

Demand to Moderate Excise Duty on Industrial Oils

572. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been made to moderate the slab structure of