

present, the following foreign offices:

New York, Moscow, East Berlin, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Singapore, Hongkong, Kuwait, Harare, Melbourne, Maldives, Nairobi, Jeddah and Dhaka.

(b) The objective of the foreign offices of STC is to increase trading activities of the Corporation in the Country/region of their location through intensive marketing and promotional efforts.

(c) The foreign offices have been engaged in locating buyers and following up deliveries on export front. They are sending market intelligence reports to the STC which prove to be a good feed-back on price, demand and availability in respect of items handled by STC.

(d) and (e). STC plans to open an office in Dubai by closing down the existing office in Jeddah and Kuwait.

Precious and Rare Metals

9485. SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of precious and rare metals that are currently mined in the country and the estimated deposits of these metals;

(b) whether information generated by the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) and the National Natural Resource Management System (NNRMS) is used for assessing and locating these deposits; and

(c) if not, the methods used to locate and estimate deposits of these metals?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c). The

information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sons of Commissioners of Income tax Practising as Chartered Accountants

9486. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the sons of some Commissioners/Chief Commissioners of Income Tax are practising as Chartered Accountants in their place of postings;

(b) if so, the details of such Commissioners/Chief Commissioners of Income tax;

(c) whether Government have laid down any procedure whereby prior permission is required to be obtained in such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). Government are aware that sons of some Commissioners/Chief Commissioners of Income-Tax are practising as Chartered Accountants in their places of postings. Government of India's permission is not required to be taken for setting up of practice by the wards.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Construction of Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan at Delhi

9487. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of constructing the Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan at Janpath, New Delhi housing the State Trading Corporation of India;

(b) how it varies with its original estimate;

(c) the estimated expenditure incurred on its furnishing and purchase of furniture;

(d) whether he has received complaints of bungling in purchase of furniture; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) The cost of construction of the Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan is estimated at Rs. 3280 lakhs. This amount does not include the extra claims of Civil Works Contractor which are under scrutiny amounting to Rs. 3.20 crores and Rs. 1.24 crs., part amount in respect of claims under arbitration.

(b) The preliminary estimate (made in 1977) was Rs. 476.10 lakhs. However, this was not correct because of under-estimation in respect of plinth area. Central Air-conditioning area, extra cost due to structural pattern, lifts, fire fighting system etc. In December, 1985, revised estimate of Rs. 25.90 crores was sanctioned.

(c) The expenditure incurred till 31st March, 1990 is estimated at Rs. 3.25 crores.

(d) and (e). Irregularities in the award of work of for furniture and furnishing are being enquired into by STC

Eligibility Certificate on Life Saving Equipment

9488. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to decentralise powers for the issue of eligi-

bility certificate in respect of life saving equipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind the decision; and

(c) the number of persons likely to benefit by the decentralisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (c). In current Policy, import of Life Saving Equipment under OGL is allowed only by those who have adequate after sales service arrangements as certified by DGTD. In order to ensure that there is no disruption in the availability of such equipments because of the condition of production of certificate of eligibility, the issue of such certificate has been decentralised and in addition to DGTD, CMOs or Civil Surgeon of a District and the Chief Medical Superintendent of the Hospital attached to a recognised Medical College have also been designated as agencies for the purpose of grant of such certificates.

SAIL Steps to Boost Raw Materials

9489. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has agreed to invest thirty per cent of funds in improving raw materials as part of modernisation plan in its steel plant as stated in the Indian Express, dated 19 March, 1990, and

(b) if so, the other steps being considered to improve the production?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, sir. SAIL is investing substantial portion of its internal resources as part of its modernisation plan in improving the Raw materials