

**Defence Minister's Visit to U.S.A.**

- Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
 Shri Jagdev Singh Siddhanti:  
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
 Shri Bade:  
 Shri Bishwanath Roy:  
 Shri Solanki:  
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:  
 Shri Basappa:  
 \*25. Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:  
 Shri Yashpal Singh:  
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:  
 Shri Surendra Pal Singh:  
 Shri Hem Raj:  
 Shri Bai Krishna Singh:  
 Shri Narasimha Reddy:  
 Shri Kolla Venkalah:  
 Shri Krishnapal Singh:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which his mission to U.S.A. last May was successful in meeting India's defence requirements;

(b) whether the U.S. Government have refused to supply F-104 interceptor-Bombers to India because of Pakistan's objections; and

(c) the quantum of U.S. credit promised for India's 5-year Defence Plan?

**The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) During the visit of the Minister of Defence to the United States of America in May, 1964, discussions were held with the U.S. Government. There was general agreement regarding the magnitude of the Chinese threat and the measures required to meet it. The U.S. authorities have agreed to provide to the Government of India subject to Congressional approval from time to time (i) military grant assistance during fiscal year 1965 (July 1964 to June 1965) at the same level as during fiscal year 1964. (ii) Immediate credit of \$10 million for the purchase of defence articles and services. (iii) Further credit of an amount of \$50 million during the fiscal year 1965.

(b) The U.S. Government have indicated that it would not be possi-

ble for them to accommodate within the military assistance programme the type of fighter aircraft required for supply by us. However, examination to determine what United States assistance in this field will be available, is continuing.

(c) The U.S. authorities have indicated that they are willing to consider the provision of assistance—both grant aid and credit assistance—on a continuing basis to India's defence effort. The quantum of assistance will require to be determined periodically.

**Travancore Minerals**

\*26. Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the future set up of Travancore Minerals has been finalised;

(b) if so, what is the time-schedule for the resumption of the working of the Chavara Plant; and

(c) whether the assets and liabilities of M/s. Hopkin and Williams Ltd. have been taken over?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** (a) and (b). To meet the increased demand for monazite from Indian Rare Earths Ltd., and to honour export commitments, it has been decided to set up a new plant at Manavalankurichi for the economic separation of the minerals present in the beach sands in this area. The new plant is being located near the existing plant and work is in progress.

The resumption of operations at Chavara will depend on finding a regular outlet for Quilon Grade Ilmenite, either within the country or outside. In spite of vigorous efforts, it has not so far been possible to locate a regular market for substantial quantities of Quilon Grade Ilmenite.

(c) It is understood that the Kerala Government have agreed in principle to take over the assets and liabilities of Messrs Hopkin & Williams (Travancore) Ltd. and that negotiations in this regard are in progress.