

Agreement for Assistance from France

6031. SHRI RAM HEDAOO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether France had agreed to give a fresh credit to India under a development assistance agreement signed recently at Paris;

(b) if so, the amount thereof and its likely use in the country;

(c) the total French credit made available to India so far, how much of it has been repaid and how much still remains outstanding; and

(d) the different fields of economic and industrial development where the French credit is being utilised at present?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) Yes, Sir. two financial protocols for a total sum of Rs. 57.80 crores (FF 315 million) representing French aid to India for 1975-76 were signed between the Governments of India and France on 7-2-1975

(b) The first protocol is for a credit of Rs. 41.28 crores (FF 225 million) out of which Rs. 21.10 crores (FF 115 million) are earmarked for imports from France of heavy equipment and goods and services required for industrial projects and Rs. 20.18 crores (FF 110 million) are earmarked for import of light equipment, components, spare parts chemicals, fertilizers and industrial raw materials from France.

The second protocol provides a credit of Rs. 16.52 crores (FF 90 million) to enable India to finance import of goods and services from France for the projects and programmes of the Indian Departments of Atomic Energy and Space.

(c) The total French assistance under the aegis of the Consortium made

available to India amounts to Rs. 432.11 crores (FF 2355 million). The entire amount has not, however, been spent. A total of FF 560.25 million has been repaid and FF 1193.99 million still remains outstanding out of the amounts so far utilised.

(d) The French credit is being utilised to meet the import requirements of industries and activities such as cement thermal and hydro-electric power, paper, wool-combing, textiles, mining, oil refinery, fertilizers, caprolactum, petro-chemicals, caustic soda, alloy steel, atomic energy, space, railways, ports, lighthouses and civil aviation.

Note. The rate of exchange used is the existing customs rate of exchange of Rs. 100=FF 54.50.

Purchase of Wide-bodied Jets for Indian Airlines

6032. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL:

SHRI N. E. HORO:

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:

SHRI HARI SINGH:

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Directors of the Indian Airlines met recently to take a decision regarding the purchase of wide-bodied jets for future use; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken thereat?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The whole matter relating to the purchase of aircraft by the Corporation is under Government's consideration.