

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) has undertaken a viability study of M/s. Bengal Potteries Ltd. The Government of West Bengal has been asked to identify a suitable entrepreneur who is willing to run the unit and capable of bringing in requisite promoter's contribution necessary for its revival. IRBI has also issued advertisements to attract suitable entrepreneurs.

Potential of PSLV

3276. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has taken or propose to take any steps to maximise the commercial potential of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in view of the delay in the development of GSLV;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ISRO propose to give a second look at INSAT-3 series and other communication satellites being envisaged as a result of the current development in the cryogenic engine deal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is configured for launching 1000 Kg. class satellites into 900 Km. polar sunsynchronous orbits. Also it has a capability of launching upto 3 tonnes of payloads into low earth orbits. The first developmental flight of PSLV is scheduled for September 1993, followed by the second flight in an year. After two successful flights it will be made operational and commercial exploitation of PSLV is certainly envisaged after satisfying our domestic requirements. The development of PSLV has no link with that of GSLV which uses PSLV modules for its lower stages.

(c) and (d) INSAT-3 series of satellites, to be launched in the time-frame of 1999 and beyond, will be defined primarily based on the user requirements as projected for early part of the 21st century. The definition will take into account the capabilities of India's GSLV as available in that time-frame.

Indictment of Defence Performance by C&AG

3277. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "C & AG pulls up Government on MIG-29 performance" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" and "Economic Times" dated May 8 and May 12, 1993, respectively;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Though instances of premature withdrawal of engines of MIG-29 aircraft have been marginally higher than the normal withdrawal of engines in case of other aircraft, the same was not allowed to affect the serviceability of the fleet.

Rationalisation of Provident Fund Rules

3278. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether rationalisation of Provident Fund Rules is under consideration of the Government;

(b) whether the study on General Provident Fund (Central Services) has since been completed;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a)