

Post Office Buildings

3749. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices in Tamil Nadu functioning in rented buildings;

(b) the total amount being paid per month as rent of those buildings;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct Government buildings for such post offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) There are 2674 Post Offices in Tamil Nadu functioning in rented buildings.

(b) The total amount being paid as rent for the rented buildings is Rs. 14,80,000 per month approximately.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Construction of departmental buildings for 110 post offices functioning in rented buildings has been approved.

Equity Base of SAIL

3750. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited has sought permission to reduce its equity base;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a small equity base for SAIL would make it totally dependent on the open market for resources; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As SAIL has to finance around Rs. 15,000 crores worth of capital expenditure in the next few years without budgetary support from the Government, it will have to rely upon the capital markets to a greater extent, for raising the necessary resources. For successfully raising resources in the capital markets, it is necessary to provide a competitive rate of return to the prospective investors. For this, SAIL has to improve parameters such as dividend rate, net asset value of shares, etc. which is possible with restructuring of equity capital.

(d) Ministry of Steel is appreciative of SAIL's concern in this regard though a final decision on the proposal will rest on consideration of all relevant factors.

Supply of F-16 Aircrafts to Pakistan

3751. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH
(DEORIA) :
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTHA :
SHRI BARE LAL JATAV :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the US move to supply F-16 fighter aircrafts