

(d) It will take about 43 months from the date of approval of the Project for commercial production to commence.

Payment of House Rent Allowance to Officers of Public Undertakings

3007. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any yardstick has been laid down for the payment of House Rent Allowance to the officers and Directors of the Public Undertakings under his Ministry; if so, what and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the names of the Senior Executives and Directors of the Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO) based in the capital who are in receipt of House Rent Allowance amounting to more than Rs. 1000 per mensem; and

(c) whether it had the approval of the Bureau of Public Enterprises under the Ministry of Finance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No yardstick for the payment of House Rent Allowance to Officers and Directors has been laid down by this Ministry. However, Ministry of Finance, Bureau of Public Enterprises have issued guidelines for payment of House Rent Allowance to officers in Public Sector Enterprises. Directors in Public Sector Undertakings are governed by the terms and conditions laid down in their appointment orders, in respect of House Rent Allowance.

(b) None of the Senior Executives and Directors of Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. based in the Capital, is in receipt of House Rent Allowance amounting to more than Re. 1000.00 per month.

(c) Does not arise.

Promotional Prospects of Non-Gazetted Staff working in Income Tax Department

3008. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Direct Taxes has appointed a Committee to examine the promotional prospect of the Non-gazetted staff working in the Income-tax Department;

(b) if so, what are its terms of reference; and

(c) by what time, Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No Committee has been appointed to examine the promotional prospects of Non-gazetted staff in the Income-tax Department.

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

Expenditure and Grant in Office Contingency of C.D.A., Patna

3009. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total expenditure and grant in office contingency of Controller of Defence Accounts, Patna for the financial year 1978-79 and 1979-80;

(b) whether it is a fact that the expenditure was incurred unevenly in the month of March, 1979 to spend funds on luxurious items keeping aside important items; and

(c) if so, what step Government propose to control such expenditure and allocate properly on essential items?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The information is given below:—

Year	Grant	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1978-79	7,78,000	7,50,325
1979-80	6,40,000	6,39,904

(b) No, Sir.

The expenditure during March, 1979 was on items of obligatory and inescapable nature required for smooth and efficient functioning of the office. A part of the expenditure was in relation to the new office accommodation hired during the year.

(c) Does not arise.

Minister's Visit to Paris

3010. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited Paris during the second week of April, 1980; and

(b) if so, the nature of talks held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Talks covered various aspects of Indo-French Economic & Commercial Cooperation including the proposed French Finance Alumina Complex in Orissa, cooperation in oil and gas exploration, coal mining etc. and the progress in different fields was reviewed. During the visit, an Indo-French Cooperation Agreement in the oil and gas sector also was signed.

Export of Garments

3011. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the market for garments in Saudi Arabia is described as a gold-mine and that there is immense scope for the supply of institutional uniforms to the United Arab Emirates and other countries;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed that performance of the export of garments to US and UK, Hongkong etc.; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government in this regard and whether the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has also suggested some measures to be taken by Indian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has recently conducted a Market Survey in the West Asian countries for institutional garments. So far only a preliminary report of this survey has been received. A final report is awaited. Export of garments to West Asian countries are under constant review and all efforts are being taken to step up export of garments to this region.

Exports of garments to US and UK are governed by quota restraints. Hong Kong being a leading exporter of garments, not only does not offer much scope for Indian garments but also competes with Indian garments in other countries.

Promotion of Trade with Kenya

3012. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kenya has expressed its desire for promotion of trade with India; and