

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