

Recovery of Central Excise duty arrears

2206. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of firms and others against whom Central Excise duty amounting to Rs. 10 lacs and above is outstanding as on 1st April, 1980; and

(b) the steps taken to recover the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Setting up of New Steel Plant in Karnataka

2207. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the setting up of new Steel Plants in the State of Karnataka,

(b) what are the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the target date, if any, fixed for the completion of the plants?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A Detailed Project Report for Vijayanagar Steel Plant in the district of Bellary in Karnataka State has already been prepared by the Consultants. After necessary examination, the matter was placed before the SAIL Board which has constituted a Committee to examine the Project Report and the estimates. Further action would be taken after the aforesaid Committee's report is received and considered by SAIL Board. Meanwhile, preliminary works like land acquisition for the plant, soil investigation, raw materials testing etc., have been completed.

2. Government have also been exploring the possibilities of setting of a new port-based steel plant with ultimate capacity of 3 million tonnes per annum. Mangalore is being considered as one of the possible sites in this connection. However, the question of setting up such a plant as well as its location and other terms and conditions is presently in various stages of consideration and detailed technical and financial evaluation.

(b) and (c). As no investment decision has yet been taken, the question of delay in the setting up of these plants and the fixing of target dates for their completion, does not arise at this stage.

Income-tax Rebate to Professionals for Purchase of Newspaper and Periodicals

2208. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 185 on 1st February, 1980, regarding income-tax rebate to individuals practising as professionals and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected if so, whether he would lay it on the Table;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the decision taken by Government to afford necessary relief in this behalf to this category of income-tax payers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Information has been collected and the Implementation Report has been sent on 19-6-1980 to the Department of Parliamentary Affairs for laying it on the Table of the House.

(c) As clarified in the Implementation Report, in respect of Unstarred