

assistance required by the State Government for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people and for repair and restoration of damaged properties. The reports of the Central teams were examined by the High Level Committee on Relief on whose recommendations ceilings of expenditure on various items were approved and advance Plan assistance of Rs. 88.93 crores was allocated. In March, 1979, the State Government reported total anticipated expenditure of Rs. 93.33 crores. The expenditure on some items was in excess of the approved ceilings. However, the full allocation of Rs. 88.93 crores of advance Plan assistance was released to the State Government, on a provisional basis, subject to adjustment on receipt of audited figures of expenditure. This adjustment is still to be made.

**Quota System for Confirmation of Upper Division Clerks in Income-tax Department**

2249. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner of Income-tax, Delhi has applied Quota System in confirmation for the U.D.Cs. even after 17th November, 1975;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not following Government instructions on confirmation issued on 17th November, 1975; and

(c) what action Government propose to do to set right the confirmations of the Upper Division Clerks (Promotees) who have been superseded by the direct UDC recruits?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

**Punctuality in Air Timings**

2250. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) has it come to his notice that in recent days the planes (particularly Bangalore-Delhi) invariably arrive and depart very late; and

(b) will he examine and see that the schedule timings are kept up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. All delays are scrutinised at various levels and remedial actions are taken. It is the endeavour of the Air Corporations and the Government to maintain punctuality of flights while ensuring the highest standard of flight safety.

**Rubber Board Office in Tripura**

2251. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board has opened any office in Tripura;

(b) whether the Board has any scheme for financial assistance to Forest Plantation Corporation of Tripura as well as to some individual rubber growers; and

(c) how much amount has been earmarked for the financial assistance in Tripura for 1980-81?

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

(b) and (c). The Rubber Board has recently submitted a scheme entitled 'Rubber Plantation Development Scheme' aimed at getting a total area of 60,000 hectares new-planted/re-planted over a five year period from 1980-81 to 1984-85, both in the traditional rubber growing states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and non-traditional rubber growing

states of Goa, Maharashtra, Tripura and other North-Eastern States. Under this scheme, financial assistance would be offered to rubber growers as well as joint sector|public sector|co-operative sector corporations. Provision have not been individually earmarked for the various states under the scheme which is presently under the consideration of the Government.

#### **New Projects for Aluminium**

2252. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are considering to have new projects for aluminium;

(b) if so, the time by which the decision will be finalised; and

(c) the criteria fixed for its consideration?

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

(b) The Government of India and the Government of France have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the setting up of an aluminium complex in Orissa. In terms of this Memorandum, the French Government will present a comprehensive financial package for the project. In the meanwhile the project is being processed for an investment decision by Government.

A feasibility study prepared by M/s. Tsvetmetpromexport of the U.S.S.R. for an alumina project with a capacity of 500,000 tpa in Andhra Pradesh is currently under examination by Bharat Aluminium Company. The Soviet Agency has very recently also submitted a supplementary report on the technoeconomics of an alumina plant with a higher capacity of 800,000 tpa. The feasibility report is currently being studied by BALCO. Steps are also under way to have the project ex-

amined by the appraisal agencies of Government.

(c) The projects are appraised with reference to technical, economic and financial parameters.

#### **Expansion and Modernisation of existing Projects of Aluminium**

2253. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India are considering for expansion and modernisation of the existing projects of aluminium in the country; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final decisions will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). An application for expansion of capacity of Alupuram smelter from 15,850 tonnes to 20,350 tonnes per annum received from M/s. Indian Aluminium Company Limited is under consideration. A decision will be taken in the matter very soon.

#### **Import of Stainless Steel**

2254. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to step up import of stainless steel to 30,000 tonnes during the current year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that SAIL has requested to stop imports with a view to stabilising the market price; and

(c) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No figure of overall imports has been decided.

(b) SAIL has suggested that the decision to allow import of stainless