

second stage within 2 years thereafter. Technical and financial assistance of 250 million roubles from USSR is available for the first stage of this project. The Soviet side has also agreed to consider extension of additional credit for the construction of the second stage of the Project after the approval of the revised Detailed Project Report, which has been received on November 30, 1980, and is under examination in SAIL. Various preliminary infrastructural and pre-construction activities in respect of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant are already in progress at site.

Offers of financial and technical collaboration for the setting up of a shore-based steel plant at Paradeep have been received from M/s. Mannesmann Demag of West Germany, M/s. Davy International of U.K., M/s. Uzinimportexport of Romania, M/s. Met-Chem of Canada and M/s. Cofransid of France. An Inter-Ministerial Expert Committee has been set up for scrutinising the various offers and holding further negotiations with the foreign parties so as to firm up the price and other terms and conditions. The Committee has already commenced its work in right earnest. It would be premature at this stage to speculate on the outcome of the proposed negotiations in this regard.

Export of Shrimps, Lobsters and Deep-Sea Fish

4667. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding the foreign exchange earned from exports of shrimps, lobsters and deep-sea fish in general during the last two years;

(b) the names of the countries to which these items are being exported by our country;

(c) whether shrimps, lobsters and other sea food items are imported from Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) The foreign exchange earned from exports of shrimps and lobsters during the last two years are as under:

1978-79	Rs. 19083.50 lakhs
1979-80	Rs. 21645.69 lakhs

(b) These items are being exported to Japan, USA, France, Belgium, Netherlands, U.K., Federal Republic of Germany, Algeria, Australia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Baharain, Canada, Dubai, Doha, Denmark, Greece, G.D.R. Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Kuwait, Muscat, Malaysia, Nepal, Qatar, Singapore, New Zealand, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, S. Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Oman, UAE, Yugoslavia, Abudhabi, and Thailand.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Representation from P and T Pensioners Association, Thana Branch, Maharashtra

4668. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation dated 6th July, 1980 from All India P&T Pensioners Association, Thana Branch (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, what are the demands made;

(c) what action has been taken on each of the said demand; and

(d) if no action has been taken so far, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Association had made various demands like appointment of a Pension Commission, grant of benefit of merger of dearness allowances with pay for retirement benefits to existing pensioners, family pension to families of those who retired before 1st January, 1964, etc.

(c) and (d). Their demands have been carefully considered but it has not been found possible to accept them. However, the Government is granting dearness relief to pensioners in accordance with the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission. So far, ten instalments of relief, amounting to a minimum of Rs. 50 and maximum of Rs. 250 have been sanctioned. In addition the Central Government pensioners, who retired prior to 1st January, 1973 have been allowed *ad hoc* relief ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. 35 per month.

Boosting of Exports

4669. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details regarding the steps being taken to boost exports during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): A statement is attached.

Statement

The Government has recently taken a number of measures to promote exports during the current year. These include the following:—

(i) Exclusion of production for export for the propose of "licensed capacity" and "dominance".

(ii) Favourable treatment to technology imports for export production which involved lump-sum payment of royalty.

(iii) Free trade zone like-treatment to all 100 per cent export oriented units.

(iv) To allow automatic expansion to an expanded list of industries for the purpose of increasing production for export.

(v) Selective relaxation in restrictions imposed on new industrial undertakings in metropolitan cities to such units which produce for exports.

(vi) Input planning for export production has been rationalised.

In addition, the EXIM BANK, going to be set up shortly, will encourage the financial infra-structure for exports. In order to reduce delays, procedures for disbursement of duty-drawback are also being streamlined.

*Loans given to Geovanola Binny Limited, Cochin by Canara Bank-L.I.C. and other Financial Institutions

4670. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans, overdrafts, cash-credit and term loan accorded to the Geovanola Binny Limited, Cochin by the Canara Bank, Life Insurance Corporation of India and other financial institution individually;

(b) whether the Company has taken out major assets pledged with the above organisations and has declared illegal lock-out since March, 1979;

(c) if so, the facts of (a) and (b) parts above; and

(d) what action has been taken against the management to realise the debts and with what results?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) M[s.