

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):** (a) Yes Sir, Most of the weather instruments in use in the country are manufactured in the Workshops of the India Meteorological Department.

(b) Weather instruments on the manufacturing list of India Meteorological Department Workshops can be supplied to meet foreign needs as well requirements of a few neighbouring countries have been met under the Voluntary Cooperation Programme sponsored by the World Meteorological Organisation and these instruments are working satisfactorily.

(c) Yes Sir, if and when demand is received.

(d) Does not arise.

**Release of Foreign Exchange to Senior Executives of Large Industrial Houses**

623. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms have been laid down by the Ministry of Finance or the Reserve Bank of India for the release of foreign exchange to senior executives of large industrial houses for going abroad on jaunts in the name of attending to some courses in Switzerland, United States and other places;

(b) whether foreign exchange for stay abroad is released to their families also while accompanying; and

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange released for such purposes including tuition fee in favour of executives of first 5 large Industrial Houses who went abroad during the year 1979 and 1980 (uptill 30-10-1980)?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT):** (a) The Reserve Bank of India has laid down norms to provide for release of foreign

exchange in favour of persons with good academic record and holding senior managerial posts in reputed concerns for attending management courses conducted by Harvard and other similar well-known universities. Such releases are made only after ensuring that the person has secured enrolment at the foreign university.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In the absence of details of the courses, it is not possible to furnish precise information.

**Alumina/Aluminium Project in Koraput, Orissa**

624. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the formalities for setting up the Alumina/Aluminium Project in Koraput district of Orissa has been completed;

(b) if so, the short note on the Alumina and Aluminium plant thereof;

(c) whether the construction of the plants has been proposed by his Ministry in current year; and

(d) if so, when?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) to (d). Government approval for the setting up of an alumina-cum-aluminium complex in Orissa at a cost of Rs. 1242.4 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 167.5 crores was accorded on 1st November, 1980. The Alumina Plant will have a capacity of 8,00,000 tonnes per annum and is proposed to be located at Damanjodi. Out of the total production of 8,00,000 tonnes of alumina per year, it is proposed to export about 3,75,000 tonnes and use the balance for producing aluminium at the smelter.