

India due to voluntary retirement/resignation etc., mostly for the purposes of joining other foreign carriers offering better emoluments.

(c) This has not resulted in cancellation of any flight and as such the question of loss of revenue does not arise. This has, however, led to certain back-log of work in the Engineering Department of Air India. To meet the situation, the Corporation has during the year 1979 recruited 77 graduate engineer trainees and is also in the process of recruiting another 50 graduate engineer trainees.

Introducing of Farm Investment Programme by A.R.D.C.

761. SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation is introducing a farm investment programme with the help of International Development Association to help Indian farmers; and

(b) if so, the details about the programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). International Development Association has sanctioned three projects so far to the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC) for financing investments for minor irrigation and other activities in agriculture in the country. Under these credit projects, the ARDC commits funds in areas where development potential exists, makes disbursements related to the progress of the project and claim re-imbursment from the International Development Association through Government of India at a specified percentage of ARDC's disbursements. The ARDC III Credit Project is in operation at present and the closing date of the same is December, 1981.

Progress of Salem Steel Plant

762. SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of first stage of the Salem Steel Plant;

(b) the rated capacity of the plant and the time by which the first stage expected to be completed;

(c) whether the project is going according to the schedule; and

(d) how many technical personnel have been sent for training abroad?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Upto the end of October, 1980, 88 per cent of concreting work, 92 per cent of structural erection work and 13 per cent of equipment erection had been completed.

(b) The first stage of the project envisages an annual production of 32,000 tonnes of cold rolled stainless steel sheets and strips from purchased hot rolled coils. It is expected to be completed by September, 1981.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Forty-six.

Starting of New Steel Plants

763. SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the new steel plants which are proposed to be started during the current Plan, indicating the capacity proposed, time frame for completion and the collaboration agreement with foreign countries in each case?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Subject to satisfactory conclusion of negotiations with foreign parties in regard to prices, quantum and terms of financing package, terms of implementation and buy-back arrangements for the