

Construction of a New Steel Works by U. K. Firm

1628. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Lazard Brothers and Company Limited, leading merchant bankers of the United Kingdom, has put forward a package of financial proposals to the Indian Government for construction of a new steel works which involve contractors from four different countries ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the financial proposals and reaction of Indian Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) & (b). M/s. Lazard Brothers and Co. Ltd. have organised a European Consortium under the leadership of M/s. Davy International Limited of U.K. (now Davy McKee) who have made an offer for technical and financial assistance for the establishment of a port-based integrated steel plant in India. Besides, offers have been received also from M/s. Mannesmann Demag of West Germany, M/s. Uzinexport-import of Romania, M/s. Met-Chem of Canada and M/s. Fofransid of France. The offers broadly provide for a financial package to cover the project cost within plant perimeter by way of aid, soft loans, buyer's credits and Euro-loans.

An Inter-Ministerial Expert Committee has already been set up to scrutinise all the offers received, carry out their technical and commercial evaluation and conduct negotiations with such of the parties whose offers are found to be suitable. Buy back arrangements upto 50% of the products are also envisaged. It may be premature at this stage to give further details in this regard since the terms and conditions of financial collaboration are yet to be negotiated and settled with the parties concerned.

Advance Increment to Section Officers

1629. SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2594 on the 5th December, 1980 regarding advance increment to Section Officers and state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to grant the two advance increments to the Section Officers, so far;

(b) if so, the details hereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) whether any representation has been received from the Section Officers from Central Secretariat to upgrade them as Class I Officers, if so, decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA)

(a) to (c). There is a demand of the Staff Side of the Departmental Council (JCM) of the Department of Personnel and A.R. that the benefit of two advance increments may be extended to all Section Officers of CSS irrespective of their date of appointment to the grade-A. Committee of the Departmental Council was set up for considering this demand and the matter is still under consideration of the Committee.

(d) A representation has been received by the Department of Personnel and A.R. to the effect that Central Secretariat Service Section Officers should be made Class I Officers. There is already a demand of the Staff Side of the Departmental Council (JCM) of the Department of Personnel and A.R. for re-structuring of Central Sectt. Service, which has been remitted to a Committee of the Departmental Council for examination. The question raised in the representation would also be referred to this Committee for consideration.

Development of Rural Banks

1630. SHRI N. E. HORO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government have taken a decision and granted some amount for the development of Rural Banks in the country under the control of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the programme of Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT) : (a) and (b). Presumably, the reference is to the Regional Rural Banks which are being established to serve primarily the weaker sections of the rural community. The share capital of such banks is made up of contribution from Government of India, A Sponsor Bank and the State Government in the ratio of 50:35:15. The Reserve Bank of India.