

(c) the defence items which will be covered under this agreement; and

(d) whether it will cover a final deal on purchase of 40 Mirage-2000—a futuristic aircraft in a flyaway condition?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN):** (a) to (d). The Governments of India and France have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the procurement and manufacture in India of defence equipment of interest to the Government of India. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details. Negotiations for the procurement of Mirage-2000 aircraft are underway with the concerned French Companies.

#### **Agricultural Project by IFAD**

6516. **SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of agricultural projects for assistance in the poorest part of India selected by the International Fund for Agricultural Development recently ;

(b) the names of such projects already being assisted by the above fund ; and

(c) the quantum of assistance extended by the Fund ?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) to (c). The following projects are currently being assisted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) :

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Bhima Command Area Development Project :     | SDRs 38.5 million (\$50.0 million) |
| 2. Rajasthan Command Area Development Project ; | SDRs 42.7 million \$55.0 million)  |

- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. Sunderban Development Project | SDRs 13.35 million (\$17.5 million) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

In addition, negotiation have been completed for assistance of SDRs 21.9 million (\$25.066 million) for the Madhya Pradesh Medium Irrigation Project.

A pipeline of projects has been posed to IFAD for possible future assistance. The actual projects to be tied up for assistance will depend upon future discussions with IFAD and the status of project preparation.

#### **Amendment of article 276 of the Constitution RE: Taxes on Professions Etc.**

6517. **SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) do Government intend to amend Article 276 of the Constitution relating to taxes on professions, trade, callings and employments, if so, the details; and

(b) if not, have Government received requests from the local authorities to amend it and the reasons for not amending?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) This Ministry had recently received a request from the Government of Gujrat proposing that the ceiling of Rs. 250 for the levy of tax on professions specified in Article 276 of the Constitution be amended and raised to Rs. 2500 per annum. This matter was considered and it was felt that an increase in the rate of profession tax would impose further hardships on the salaried classes, particularly those in the lower slabs due to the fact that this expenditure is not allowed as a deduction for income tax purposes.

It was noticed that the highest rate of profession tax in some States was at present being levied on those drawing a salary of Rs. 18,000/- per annum and above, which showed that the increased rates of profession tax would fall on people in lower income slabs. All these, it was felt, would run counter to policy of liberalising the taxation rates in the lower income tax slabs. In view of this, the Gujarat Government's suggestion in this regard has not been agreed to.

**Posts of Sr. P.As given to  
Departmental Candidates to  
be filled by U.P.S.C.  
Examinees**

6518. SHRI HARISH KUMAR  
GANGWAR :  
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR  
SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of posts of Senior P. As. meant to be filled by UPSC Examinees are given to departmental candidates on ad hoc basis ; and

(d) if so, the consideration for not promoting against such vacancies the already available/qualified UPSC examinees who could not come in the merit list for want of vacancies by drawing up a panel of such left over stenographers from the year the Examination for Sr. P. As. was instituted ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) & (b). As per the AFHQ Stenographers Service Rules, 50% of the vacancies of Sr. PAs. are filled from Grade 'C' Stenographers selected on the result of the Limited Departmental Competitive Examination held by the UPSC in the order of their merit ; the remaining 50% are filled from the eligible Stenographers Grade 'C' in the order of

their seniority subject to the rejection of the unfit. Any short term vacancies remaining unfilled by temporary (ad hoc) promotion from eligible Stenographers Grade 'C' on the basis of seniority subject to the rejection of the unfit. Such temporary (ad hoc) promotions are, however, terminated when persons included in the Select List become available to fill the vacancies.

As the Select List drawn by the UPSC is on the basis of comparative merit, the question of considering candidates not included in the List for promotion against temporary vacancies, does not arise.

**Subsidy for Coir Goods**

6519. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government regarding giving subsidy or cash incentive for the coir goods that are exported, considering the slump in the foreign market and to step up export ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) when a final decision will be taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). Cash compensatory support on certain varieties of coir and coir goods was available upto 31-3-1982. The general policy of the government on cash assistance beyond 31-3-82 is not yet finalised.

**Payment for supply of Aluminium Sulphate to Tanzania**

6520. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Tanzanian Ministry of Water and Energy has refused to accept Indian