

the peaceful exploration of outer space:
and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with USSR on May, 14, 1970, for collaboration in rocket soundings of the atmosphere, using Soviet M-100 rockets, at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) in Trivandrum. From time to time, the progress of activities under this MOU is reviewed and protocols signed to extend the duration of the MOU and also to augment scientific output.

Launchings of Aryabhata in 1975 and of Bhaskara-I and II in 1979 and 1981 respectively from USSR are important milestones in Indo-USSR Cooperation. Further, as part of collaboration in atmospheric studies, it has been decided that the weekly M-100 launches from TERLS will continue till 1985. In addition, an agreement has been signed with USSR under which the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-I) will be launched by a USSR launcher. Arrangements have also been finalised for use of a TV transponder on-board a USSR satellite for provision of certain essential limited satellite based TV networking services in the country, from March, 1983 to December, 1983.

An Indo-USSR seminar-cum-workshop on space research to mark the occasion of completion of 10 years of successful collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the USSR Academy of Sciences was held from February 21 to 25 in Bangalore. The Scientific and Technical results of cooperative activities in various areas, including launching of Indian satellites, sounding rocket launches for atmospheric studies from Thumba, optical photography and tracking of satellites from Kavalur, Joint high altitude balloon flights from Hyderabad etc., were presented. Several working groups of scientists from both sides reviewed and discussed areas for future cooperation.

Extension to Government Employees

1695. PROF. NARAIN CHAND
PARASHAD:
SHRI BALAKRISHNA
WASNIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided not to grant any extension to Government Employees after they attain the age of retirement;

(b) if so, the date with effect from which a decision has been taken and the date with effect from which it is being implemented; and

(c) the number of employees in each of the Union Ministries/Departments which are on extension as on 31 January, 1983 separately, for each category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a) and (b). According to the policy of the government, extension in service is to be granted very rarely and in exceptional circumstances on the ground of public interest only. Ministries and Departments have also been directed to review the extension already granted by them with a view to see whether the extension could not be curtailed by giving the required minimum notice.

(c) Details in this regard are not available centrally, as extensions are given by the various cadre controlling authorities under delegated powers.

Improvement in Working of Kudremukh Iron ore Project

1696. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the commissioning of the Kudremukh iron ore mining project, there has been no sign of its taking off and the production has been only 13 per cent of its rated capacity;