

[English]

Expenditure on Air-conditioning

1759. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on air-conditioning in various departments of the Union Government during last three years;

(b) the annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance of air-conditioning plants and consumption of power at these place;

(c) whether Government propose to close these plants as a measure to curtail expenditure and save power; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Foreign Exchange earnings from Construction Contracts Abroad

1760. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange earned from the construction contracts abroad during the last two years, till date;

(b) the number of such contracts signed/undertaken by the Government and the number of contracts completed so far; and

(c) the time by which the remaining contracts are likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MIN-

ISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). As reported by the Exim Bank of India 13 number of Overseas Civil Construction Contracts for a total value of Rs. 414 crores were secured by Indian companies both in public and private sectors between 1989-90 to April-December 1991-92.

All the Overseas Civil Construction Projects presently under execution are expected to be completed by June 1994 except those in Iraq where execution of projects had to be abandoned due to gulf crisis in August, 1990.

Import of Wheat

1761. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption of wheat in the country at present and its production target during the current year;

(b) the details of food articles including wheat imported during each of the last three years and the current year, the quantity thereof and the foreign exchange spent thereon;

(c) the countries from where these were imported; and

(d) the reasons for import of wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) These figures are not collected by CCI&E/Ministry of Commerce.

(b) to (d). Information about import of wheat was obtained from Ministry of Food. During 88-89 a quantity of 20.11 lakh tonnes

of wheat was imported from USA. During 89-90 and 90-91 no wheat was imported. So far during 91-92 no wheat has been imported. The Government have, however, as informed by Ministry of Food, recently decided to import one million tonnes of wheat with a view to increase its availability and to contain the prices in the open market.

Construction of Docks for Repair of Ships

1762. SHRIMATIGIRIJA DEVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present arrangements of repairing the ships are not adequate; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to build docks for the repairs of ships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While due to budgetary constraints, it may not be possible for the Government to invest in the creation of new shiprepair facilities, Government would encourage the setting up of such facilities in the private sector or joint sector with the participation of State Governments.

The Port Trusts have been advised to provide necessary land and water-front areas to the prospective entrepreneurs to set up ship repairing facilities in their respective Ports.

[English]

Production of Defence Equipment

1763. SHRICHANDRAJEETYADAV-SHRI SIMON MARANDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time schedule has been framed by the Government for increasing the Defense production;

(b) whether any foreign country has been approached for joint collaboration for defence production;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the cost of production of defense items?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Consistent with the annual allocation funds and the prioritised requirements of the Services, itemwise annual targets are set. Achievement of such targets is monitored periodically.

(b) and (c). Some of the items under current production are being manufactured in technical collaboration with foreign countries, it is not in the public interest to disclose the details in this regard.

(d) Steps in this behalf include inventory control, optimisation of capacity utilisation, economy measured like energy conservation, value engineering etc.

[Translation]

Expansion of RRBs Activities in New Areas

1764. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the activities of Regional Banks in the new areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?