

- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

Retirement age of Air-Hostesses

3446. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
SHRIMATI USHA VERMA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a sequence to the enhancement of retiring age for Government and public sector employees to 60 years, Government also propose to raise the retirement age of air-hostesses with Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in the matter ;

(c) whether air-hostesses are not allowed to fly as cabin crew member after a certain age; and

- (d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Air India and Indian Airlines have raised the age of retirement of their employees including air-hostesses from 58 to 60 years.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines allows its air hostesses to fly as Cabin Crew member till the age of retirement. In Air India air hostesses are given flying duties upto 50 years subject to medical fitness and thereafter they are given ground duties.

Price of Aluminium

3447. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :
DR. SAJOJA V. :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the buyers of unwrought Aluminium in India have to pay a price equivalent to about US-\$1700/t as against the ruling average price of US-\$1400/t on LME;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is attributable to the extra high cost of

unwrought Aluminium metal that Indian manufacturers of semifabricated products have had to pay;

- (d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether the domestic demand growth for semifabricated Aluminium products like steel, foil and extrusions fell in 1997-98 only to 15% over 1996-97; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and corrective measures taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The average LME price of unwrought aluminium was US\$ 1308 per Metric Tonne (MT) in June 1998. Importers of unwrought aluminium have to incur additional costs in the form of freight, insurance, customs duty, countervailing duty, special countervailing duty and terminal handling charges. As a result, the landed cost of imported unwrought aluminium to the Indian manufacturer of semi-fabricated products at an LME price of US\$ 1308 works out to approximately US \$ 1842 per MT. As against this, the price of domestically produced unwrought aluminium by the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) during June 1998 was Rs. 73166 per MT (equivalent to approximately US \$ 1702 @ exchange rate of US \$ 1 = Rs. 43). Thus, the price of domestically produced unwrought aluminium is lower than the landed cost of imported unwrought aluminium.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The price of domestically produced unwrought aluminium is lower than the landed cost of imported unwrought aluminium. However, market forces, fluctuations in LME prices, demand-supply situation, taxes and other commercial factors decide the price of unwrought aluminium to be paid by domestic semi-fabricators.

(e) Since most secondary producers/re-rollers/extruders are in the unorganised sector, complete information is not available. However, the three major secondary producers, viz. Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO), Indian Aluminium Company (INDAL) and Hindustan Aluminium Company (HINDALCO), who account for a substantial market share in rolled sheets, foils and extrusions, recorded a growth (provisional) of 16.2% in rolled sheets, 7.4% in foils and (-) 8.9% in extrusions in 1997-98 over 1996-97.

(f) Growth rate in the aluminium industry is largely dependent on the general growth in the economy.

SAIL COR

3448. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for withdrawing orders for SAIL COR by the Railways from Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur;

(b) whether both the Steel and Wagon Industry in West Bengal is suffering for withdrawal of orders by the Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) There has been no withdrawal of orders placed for SAIL COR by the Railways from Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Defence Delegation to Russia

3449. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI M. RAJAI AH :
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a High Level Indian Defence Delegation visited Moscow on June 14, 1998 for extensive talks on Indo-Russian Defence Co-operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the delivery of Russian SU-30 Aircraft is reported to have been delayed indefinitely;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the specification of the newly acquired Russian submarine for the Indian Navy and the expenditure incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) At the invitation of the First Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, a high level delegation headed by Defence Secretary visited Russia from 15-19 June, 1998 and held discussions in Moscow, in the context of furthering and enhancing all-round defence co-operation with Russia including issues related to defence procurements. During the visit the draft text of the Agreement on the Long-Term Programme of Military Technical Co-operation between the two countries up to the year 2010 was also finalised. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details of activities under the Military Technical Co-operation between the two countries.

(c) and (d) There has been some delay. Efforts are being made to minimise this delay.

(e) It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details in this regard.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

12.00 hrs.

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : I beg to lay on the Table —

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 942/98]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Mazagon Dock Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 943/98]

A copy of the Delhi Development Amendment Rules and Memorandum of Understanding between the National Building Construction Corporation Ltd. etc.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Delhi Development (Grant of Allowance to Non-official Members of the Advisory Council) Amendment Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 103 in Gazette of India dated 23rd May, 1998, under section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 944/98]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :