

These instructions are also applicable to the Public Sector Undertakings.

The existing Central Government Staff Car Rules permit the use of staff car of Public Sector Undertakings by Government officials under some conditions. Instructions have been issued reiterating strict compliance of these Rules.

The mileage done by the staff cars of Public Sector Undertakings for official work by Government, is also required to be accommodated within the overall ceiling prescribed for petrol consumption.

Wharton Report

3885. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the Wharton Report according to which Indian public enterprises have been borrowing desperately on promissory notes which are redeemable instantly on demand;

(b) whether according to this Report, top international rating and evaluation agencies are pessimistic about India's ability to service its external debt;

(c) whether the demand for foreign goods virtually entrenched as a permanent feature of the Indian economy;

(d) whether the lending rates hardening for India are having its impact on the banks which lend to India; and

(e) if so, how Government propose to meet this alarming situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (e) The Government have no knowledge about any report titled "Wharton Report" published on the subject.

Tea Plantation

3886. SHRI B. N. REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to tap new fields where tea could be grown for domestic use; and

(b) if so, the efforts made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) and (b) To increase the production of tea in the country, Government has introduced a New Tea Unit Financing Scheme for tea plantation in non-traditional areas like Orissa, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram. Under this scheme, loan and subsidy at the rate of Rs. 40,000 per hectare and Rs. 25,000 per hectare respectively is provided for.

Completion of VSP

3887. SHRI B. N. REDDY:
SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:

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

(a) the estimated cost of the Vizag Steel Plant and the amount spent so far thereon together with the amount required for completing the same;

(b) the time by which the said plant is likely to be completed in all respects; and

(c) the number of local persons employed in the said project and their percentage to the total persons employed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARJIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The approved cost estimate of V.S.P., based on IV Quarter, 1987 prices, is Rs. 6,849.70