

There is no proposal at present to grant productivity-linked bonus to the generality of Central Government employees.

Public Distribution System

*77. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps, if any, have been or are being taken to set up an effective public distribution system in the country;

(b) outcome of the steps taken so far in physical and financial terms;

(c) names of items which are currently being supplied through the public distribution system;

(d) quantity supplied per head per week; and

(e) whether Government are satisfied with the progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) and (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) Information is being collected from the various State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is received.

Statement

(a) to (c) and (e). The public distribution system in the country has been reviewed from time to time in consultation with the State Governments and the concerned Ministries of the Central Government. The State Governments were requested to take steps for strengthening the public distribution system by enlarging the coverage by increasing the retail outlets so that people in remote and in-

accessible areas and areas inhabited by weaker sections of the society are efficiently served. Between January, 1980 and the end of October, 1980 31,000 additional retail outlets of the public distribution system have been opened in the country. State Governments have been advised to nominate agencies such as Civil Supplies Corporations or Cooperative Consumers Marketing Federations for lifting of essential commodities allotted by the Centre and supplying them to the retail outlets. Central Government has also advised to State Governments to constitute committees of the representatives of the people at various levels to keep watch over the functioning of the public distribution system. Periodical review of the availability and distribution of essential commodities is being undertaken by the Union Government and corrective measures taken, wherever necessary.

At present cereals such as wheat and rice, levy sugar, imported edible oils, kerosene, controlled cloth, exercise books, match boxes, tea and coffee have been recommended for sale through the public distribution system.

Vijaynagar Steelplant

*78. SHRI R. Y. GHORPADE:

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

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

(a) whether the proposed Vijaynagar Steel Plant is located right at the iron ore mine;

(b) whether the limestone, dolomite and manganese ore requirements can be supplied from nearby sources in the Karnataka State itself;

(c) if so, do these advantages place the project in a more favourable

position for installation of an integrated steel plant;

(d) whether the location of the Vijayanagar Plant in the South will be favourable from the point of view of distribution of the products to the Southern Region;

(e) whether the location will serve decentralisation both from national and strategic considerations; and

(f) whether MECON has been asked to prepare a feasibility report on the Vijayanagar Steel Plant within three months from October in view of cost escalations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Though the site for Vijayanagar Steel Plant is in the close proximity of sources for iron ore and raw materials like limestone and dolomite, this advantage is more than off-set by the distance involved in the movement of coking coal which is a massive input, next only to iron ore.

(d) and (e). Whereas the proposed location would be conducive to economic distribution of finished products for the Southern region, or conform to the concept of decentralisation, there are several other compelling considerations of techno-economic nature which have also to be met in deciding upon an appropriate location.

(f) MECON have been asked to make studies of alternate technologies and product-mix with a view to contain the use of coking coal and the movement of finished products and also to up-date the Detailed Project Report in order to incorporate unit sizes of major production units to conform to those being installed now in other plants in the country. SAIL expects to have an interim report from MECON within three months and the final report within six months.

Construction of Calicut Airport

***79. SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA:**

SHRI K. KUNHAMBU:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of the Calicut Airport has since been started; and

(b) what is the present position of the Airport at Calicut?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No, not yet, Sir.

(b) An estimate amounting to Rs. 2.52 crores for development of Karipur airport suitable for HS-748 aircraft had been prepared. However, it has now been decided to construct the airport at Karipur suitable for Boeing 737 for which estimates are being revised.

Indo-United States Trade Relations

***80. SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:**

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Washington has conveyed to Government that they will not recognise the applicability of multi-lateral trade negotiations agreement to India;

(b) whether this has caused a very serious setback to Indo-U.S. trade relations and will affect our exports to that country; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken the question to the Government of USA so that the Indian exports to that country do not suffer as a result of the above decision and if so, the outcome thereof?