

(iii) System of Project Approval & Execution—Investment Strategy and Priority;

(iv) Inventory Management;

(v) Industrial Relations; and

(vi) Improvement in Capacity Utilisation.

The major recommendations are such as providing for a longer tenure for Chief Executives, delegation of powers, evolving criteria for performance evaluation tailing national plan with the capacities created in the public sector, developmental ordering, single package of clearance for import, establishing linkages between salary/wage increases to productivity, reduction by 5 per cent in the inventory/sales ratio over the previous year, improvement in capacity utilisation by at least 5 per cent 1984-85 as compared to the level achieved in 1983-84 and a number of measures aimed at organisation excellence.

(b) Various recommendations which emanated from the Conference have been circulated to the different agencies of Government and the Public Enterprises for initiating appropriate follow-up measures.

Coast Guards

857. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA;
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report in the 'Indian Express' of June 1, 1984 to the effect that a person who fell in the sea from a deep sea fishing trawler near Konarak (Orissa) recently could not be rescued because of lack of ship-to-shore communication network and the Naval authority's refusal to land a helicopter holding that rescue work was Coastal Guards responsibility;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Coast Guard do not yet have equipment for such rescue work; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to prevent such incidents.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir. However it is not correct that the person could not be rescued because of lack of ship-to-shore communication network and the Naval authority's refusal to land a helicopter holding that rescue work was Coast Guards responsibility. 13 P & T Coastal Radio Stations and 5 Port Radio Stations all over India's coast maintain a continuous watch on selected distress frequencies and VHF Channels. The instructions and particulars for notifying authorities ashore in order to seek assistance are contained in the Annual edition of Notices to Mariners. The distressed trawler should have contacted the authorities on the prescribed frequencies. A Coast Guard F 27 aircraft was diverted to search the area on receipt of the message on the 10th April, 1984, and on completing its mission at Calcutta, reported that a number of fishing trawlers were combing the area. In view of these efforts already being in hand and the lapse of time making it unlikely that a helicopter search would bear fruit, and also because no Naval helicopter was available near Konark, a request received on the 11th April, for a search by a Naval helicopter was not agreed to.

(b) and (c) The existing fleet of the Coast Guard in the vicinity is deployed on search and rescue missions whenever an exigency arises and information is received in time. The fleet of the Coast Guard is being augmented as rapidly as possible by means of a development plan for the service. Induction of additional helicopters for rescue operations is also being considered as part of these plans.

External Debt

858. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA;
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA;
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total external debt as on 31st March, 1980 and 1984;

(b) what is the amount of foreign commercial loans by public and private sector companies on these dates;

(c) what was the values of US Dollar in rupees as on January 10, 1980 and March 31, 1984 and to what extent payment liability as increased due to fall in the value of rupee;

(d) what is the position of repayment schedule; and

(e) what is the amount requested per year for servicing of the total loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) The total External Debt on Government Accounts as on 31st March, 1980 and 31st March, 1984 was about Rs. 12,178 crores and Rs. 20,165 crores respectively.

(b) The outstanding amounts of foreign commercial loans as on 31st March, 1980 and 31st March, 1984 were about Rs. 996 crores and 2,277 crores respectively.

(c) The US Dollar was equivalent to Rs. 7.94 and Rs. 10.75 as on 10th Jan. 1980 and 31st March, 1984 respectively. Changes in the exchange rates between the Dollar and the Rupee do not affect the foreign currency amount of repayment of debt denominated in Dollar since the debt is repaid in dollar. Moreover, the entire external debt is not repayable in US Dollar but in a mix of currencies.

(d) and (e) As per Budgetted estimates the amount of repayment of principal and payment of interest on Government loans during 1984-85 are estimated at Rs. 59,145 crores and Rs. 418,008 crores respectively.

**Provision of medical care at Airports
and small industrial units by IFCI**

859. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Industrial Finance Corporation of India has recently decided to give financial

assistance to medium and small scale industrial units for modernisation of of their plants; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), alongwith other all India financial institutions, has been administering the 'Soft Loans Scheme' since 1976 for modernisation and rehabilitation of certain selected industries viz. Sugar, Jute, Cotton textiles, Cement and specified Engineering industries. The scheme has been modified with effect from 1-1-1984 so as to cover deserving units in all industries. The main features of the modified scheme known as 'Soft Loans Scheme for Modernisation' are concessional rate of interest on the Soft component of the loans sanctioned under the scheme, longer amortization schedules depending upon the earning capacity of the projects, reasonable promoters contribution and flexible debt-equity ratio.

No other new scheme has been introduced by the IFCI to cater exclusively to the modernisation needs of medium and small scale industrial units.

**Crash of Indian Air Force Plane in
western sector**

860. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI KISHOR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Air Force plane crashed in the western sector on the 1st June, 1984;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a rising trend of accidents involving Indian Air Force aircraft during the past four years; and