

French investment; third country project; issues relating to multi fibre arrangement and liberalisation of trade and French collaboration in the areas of technology.

(d) The Indo-French trade has witnessed considerable growth during the last four years. The total turnover which was Rs. 305.4 crores during 1977-78 has increased to Rs. 422.64 crores during 1980-81.

209. [Transferred to the 26th February, 1982]

Cost of Mirage Aircraft

210. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India has obtained cost cut by 10 per cent in respect of mirage deal;

(b) when the first mirage aircraft is likely to be supplied to India;

(c) what would be the cost of each aircraft; and

(d) what is the total number of mirage aircrafts that will be supplied to India and by what time?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (d) Negotiations with the French Companies for the supply of Mirage-2000 aircraft are still in progress.

Review of the current economic situation

211. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that review of the current economic situation in the country showed that there was definite improvement in the country's economy;

(b) if so, whether according to this review there was a marked improvement in all the spheres, including industrial and agricultural production and monetary growth;

(c) whether the expected decline in resources would be greater than as anticipated earlier;

(d) whether Government are confident that industrial production will go up by 8 per cent;

(e) what steps Government propose to take to improve the economy further; and

(f) whether Government have also taken a decision to impound the D.A. of the Government employees and also wage freeze to strengthen the economy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) There has been a significant improvement in the economic situation during 1981-82. The detailed review of the economic policies will be presented in the Economic Survey 1981-82 and the Budget for 1982-83.

(f) There is a proposal to deposit only the arrears of Dearness Allowance into the Provident Fund accounts of the employees. There is no proposal under consideration regarding wage freeze.

Supply of French Mirage Aircraft to India

212. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 74 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th November, 1981 and state:

(a) whether India and France have since finally signed on agreement for the supply of French Mirage aircraft to India;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the agreement;

(c) whether the agreement has given a greater morale boosting to the Indian Air Force;

(d) to what extent the Indian Air Force is likely to meet the Pakistan's threat after the latter acquires the F-16 planes from U.S.A.; and

(e) whether Pakistan has already received all the arms and ammunition from the U.S.A. for which an agreement was signed earlier?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENATARAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

(d) Government are taking appropriate steps to meet the situation effectively. It is not in the interest of national security to disclose the details.

(e) Government have seen reports that Pakistan has concluded agreements with the U.S.A. for the supply of arms and ammunition and that supplies would commence hereafter.

Education in IDA Assistance

213. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. A. W. Clausen, World Bank President, is exercising pressures for reduction in the IDA assistance in the current fiscal year; if so what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the cut in concessional assistance is likely to create problems in various sectors of development and Economy of the country; if so, what are the sector-wise proposals to be affected if any; and

(c) whether the World Bank has forwarded any proposal for consideration of the Government for reduction in Air proposals; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (c) No, Sir. However, there is a reduction in the overall funds available to IDA during the Bank's fiscal year 1982 (July 1981—June 1982) due to the fact that the United States and other donor countries have not paid in their contributions to the second instalment in amounts agreed to at the time of the

agreement on the Sixth Replenishment. Although there is a likelihood that this will result in reduction in the funds available to India in FY 82, we have not been officially notified of the exact amount. We are, however, making every possible efforts to ensure that the maximum possible funds are made available to India.

(b) While a reduction in concessional assistance would inevitably affect our balance of payments position, it is not possible at this stage to quantify these effects.

Overdrafts of West Bengal and other States

214. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of money involved in the overdrafts taken by different State Governments and Union Territories respectively during the year 1981-82 till date;

(b) what are the reasons for which Central Government do not take suitable steps to help settling the discrepancies that are reported to be responsible for apparent misunderstanding between the Government of West Bengal and the Central Government; and

(c) what are the reasons for which the Reserve Bank is not directed to thrash out the matter in consultation with the Minister of Finance, West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) The total amount of overdraft of all the States as of 16th February, 1982 was Rs. 1236.89 crores. The Union Territories' accounts are part of the Consolidated Fund of India.

(b) and (c) The Reserve Bank of India was informed about the misgivings of the Government of West Bengal regarding the volume of overdrafts. After re-examining this ques-