

(c) whether Government have received a communication from the Kerala Government to the effect; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the investigations carried out by the Geological Survey of India, the reserves of iron ore in Kozhikode district of Kerala are estimated at about 59 million tonnes with Fe-content ranging from 81.5% to 41.2%. Some tests will have to be carried out to determine the amenability of the ore to beneficiation.

(c) A communication was received from the Government of Kerala in October, 1974, suggesting the establishment of a Steel Plant in Kerala; and

(d) The establishment of a steel plant to utilize the iron ore deposits in Kozhikode district of Kerala can be considered only after the suitability of the ore for production of pellets sponge iron has been established and an overall assessment has been made of the area as a whole in the context of infrastructure facilities and economic feasibility, as well as availability of financial resources.

Wage Board for Non-Journalist Employees

1745. **SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 255 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st February, 1975 and state:

(a) whether Government have worked out the composition and terms of reference of the wage board for non-journalist employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Board is likely to submit its recommendations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c) A statement was made in the Sabha on 18-3-1975 on the composition of the Wage Board. The Board will be requested to submit its report early.

Production Plan of HAL, Bangalore

1746. **SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:**
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:
SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA:
SHRI M. P. SHUKLA:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the production of the Hindustan Air-craft Limited for 1975-76 and 1976-77?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): It is not in public interest to disclose the production programme of HAL.

Manufacture of Avro Aircraft at HAL

1747. **SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:**
SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA:
SHRI M. P. SHUKLA:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Avro aircraft being manufactured at HAL, Bangalore; and

(b) the names of the customers of these aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Avro aircraft is being manufactured at HAL

Kanpur Division (and not in Bangalore) for the Indian Air Force. It would not be in the public interest to disclose the number of aircraft being manufactured.

However, 24 Nos. of Avro aircraft ordered by the Indian Airlines on HAL, Kanpur have already been manufactured.

(b) I.A.F. and Indian Airlines.

Sheikh Abdullah's Visits Abroad

1748. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the expenditure in terms of Indian currency and foreign exchange incurred on Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on his visits to various countries during the last 10 years; and

(b) whether these visits were officially sponsored or by any other Government agency and what were the facilities which were extended to him during these visits by Indian Missions abroad and whether such facilities and concessions have also been extended to other ordinary citizens of India and if so, what are the details thereof and the names of the persons to whom they were extended?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, accompanied by his wife and some others, went abroad for performing Haj and for visiting some countries of West Asia and Europe in 1965. Government sanctioned the usual foreign exchange of Rs. 1000 per head for Haj pilgrimage and Rs. 6,000 per head for visiting other countries.

(b) The visits were not officially sponsored. It is the practice of Indian Missions abroad to extend reasonable courtesies and assistance to Indian nationals, more so in the case of those who currently hold or have held in the past responsible positions in public life.

Scheme for Educated Unemployed

1749. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government have prepared a scheme for helping the educated unemployed for 1975-76; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the decision Central Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b) No such scheme has been received from the Government of Maharashtra either under the Employment Promotion Programme or the State Plan.

Provident Fund Dues

1750. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the amount of Provident Fund dues as on 31st December, 1974 from various public sector undertakings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): The Provident Fund Authorities have reported that the information is not available and is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Abolition of Contract System

1751. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to do away with contract labour system; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which the NMDC has asked for 3 year tender for raising iron ore from April, 1975 to March, 1978, for their Bailadila Iron Ore Mines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) There is no general proposal before the Government