

can be purchased without paying any duty. So the capital expenditure is not much in acquiring these cars.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA : The High Commissioner's car is Rolls-Royce which was purchased about 10 or 15 years back and, as far as I can see, it will go on indefinitely serving the High Commissioner.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY : Taking into account the total expenditure that we incur, may I ask the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that one Mr. Ganju in New York, who was working as a Press Attache some time before and was getting 800 dollars a month, was recently given an increment of 10 thousand dollars a month? Is it a fact and, if so, what are the reasons?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I would require a separate notice for that because I cannot offhand give you the terms of the contracts, etc. which are entered into between a Mission and outsiders. But I do recollect that Mr. Ganju was in regular service and then he resigned and now I think he has some sort of agency for publicity work and if there is any contract, I would like to look into the terms of that contract.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

MIGs

*587. **SHRI B. N. MANDAL :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the manufacture of MIGs in Nasik, Koraput and Hyderabad factories; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to accelerate the pace of construction in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS) : (a) Construction of factory buildings has made considerable progress; at Nasik Factory, buildings required for the first phase have been completed.

Procurement of plant, machinery and equipment, recruitment and training of personnel and translation of documents etc. are progressing according to plan.

(b) Frequent review meetings are held with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and

the State Governments of Maharashtra and Orissa to identify the difficulties and to take steps to remove them. Critical buildings at Nasik and Koraput have been entrusted to big and reputable construction firms to ensure completion according to schedule.

श्री बी० एन० मंडल : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन कारखानों में अभी तक प्रोडक्शन शुरू हुआ है या नहीं शुरू हुआ है और अगर प्रोडक्शन शुरू हुआ है तो अभी तक कितना हुआ है ?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS : With regard to the Nasik factory the first stage has already started. Now there are four stages in the manufacturing programme. The first in the manufacturing programme is major assembly. Then the second stage is out of sub-assemblies. The third stage is very detailed. The fourth and the last stage is from raw material. As far as the first stage is concerned, it has already started the manufacturing programme. Now we are having these major assemblies.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मंत्री महोदय से यह जान सकूंगा कि इन प्लेन्स को बनाने में भारत में क्या खर्चा आयेगा और बाहर से मंगाने में क्या खर्चा आता है ?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS : I would not like to give the expenditure figures of this factory, either foreign exchange or indigenous expenditure.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, there has been an inordinate delay in the execution of this project. The Soviet offer was made in 1962. The Government took extraordinarily long time in accepting it and is taking an unusually long time in implementing it. May I know, Sir, what are the reasons for the delay? What is the period which the Government took for consideration of the offer and even after acceptance of the offer, may I know, Sir, why the scheme has not progressed as smoothly and as expeditiously as it should have particularly in view of the fact that America is supplying Jet planes to Pakistan via West Germany and Iran?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS : Sir, the MIG complex is not, after all, a simple or easy proposition. In fact, an additional agreement with the Soviet Union was signed only in September 1964. After that we had to

prepare detailed working projects etc. Now the programme is more or less proceeding according to schedule.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : May I know, Sir, when the Koraput plant in Orissa in respect of MIG-21 is likely to go into production, how far it has progressed and why the programme has been delayed ?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS : As far as the Koraput factory is concerned, it is another question. But this supplementary arises out of this question, I admit. In fact, the first phase of civil works namely, construction of the requisite number of residential quarters is being undertaken first because the total population of that village was only 5-6 thousand persons. Therefore, the honourable House can understand the difficulties there will be in having a big project set up there. So we had necessarily to have the necessary residential quarters. A thousand quarters have already been completed. A training school with hostel has also been completed. We have got the other programme in hand.

Sir, with regard to test facilities—because that is the most important thing to start assembling—that building is also nearing completion. In view of the fact that this construction has been entrusted to big and reputable firms, we hope that the schedule will be kept and that there will be satisfactory progress with regard to the civil construction.

SHRI BIREN ROY : In the agreement concluded in 1964, is there any clause that the latest developments in the design of MIG-21 and their future advanced models will also be supplied to us as and when these are developed in the U.S.S.R. ?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS : It is an improved version of MIG-21 that we are having. Apart from that, Sir, I would not like to deal with the details of this programme.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : May I know, Sir, whether the construction of the factory building in which the MIG engine has to be produced in Koraput has been completed ? If not, when will it be completed ?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS : I have submitted, Sir, with regard to the Koraput factory the engine power is in production. Before pro-

duction can commence in Koraput, we are expecting that the first engine in this factory will be in hand by May 1968. In fact the necessary civil construction programmes regarding this Koraput factory are now proceeding. The training programme is also very important. That also is in hand, Sir.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD : The hon'ble Minister was pleased to say that the buildings are under construction. May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that some staff, by hundreds, was recruited and kept idle as no extra work was started at Nasik ? Secondly, another thing that I want to know is whether the Government have received complaints from people in Maharashtra stating that a partial treatment is being given to them while making recruitment to the posts of officers ?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS : Sir, with regard to some objection raised by the Audit side, my hon. friend seems to have quite good information. It is true that there has been given training to 688 Mechanics (B). After their course was completed, there was some time lapse because of this delay in the construction of this building. In fact, that has now been brought over and they are now being usefully employed.

With regard to recruitment, in fact, there have been these complaints. I have gone into detail but I find that to the extent candidates have been provided by the local employment exchange, people from that area have been recruited. If the hon'ble Member wants to know the figures, I can supply them so that he himself will be satisfied with regard to the satisfactory recruitment from that area.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : The hon'ble Minister has given the various stages of development and progress but these are very minor and preliminary works such as construction of township, houses and buildings etc. May I know, Sir, by what time the MIGs will reach the take-off stage ? After all, the stages mentioned are preliminary stages. The take-off stage is very important.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS : These various stages relate from the current year 1966-67 to 1972-73. We have chalked out a programme of 4-5 years. I would not like to disclose when we will be in a position to reach the take-off stage.