

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The aluminium producers are selling the commercial grade aluminium ingots at the reduced price fixed by Government, namely, Rs. 12,258 per tonne (ex-factory price plus excise duties).

Disruption of Telephone and Postal System in West Bengal due to Floods

1629. **PROF. SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone and postal systems in the greater part of West Bengal got disrupted due to recent floods in the State;

(b) if so, facts thereabout and the present position of telephone system operating in affected areas of the State; and

(c) whether postal system has been re-established in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Postal system in 10 Districts including Calcutta was adversely affected. Telephone Exchanges affected were Bagnan, Kolaghat, Ballichuk, Kandi, Beldanga, Matathi, Krishnagar, Katwa and Nabadwip. A number of trunk lines were also interrupted. Complete restoration of telecommunications has already been done on a temporary basis. Permanent repairs are under progress.

In Calcutta Telephones comprising of Howrah, Hugli, 24-Parganas and

part of Nadiad District about 33,000 telephones were interrupted due to floods. Most of these telephones have since been restored.

(c) Yes Sir.

Expenditure on Indian Missions Abroad

1630. **DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI:**

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned for the expenditure of Indian Embassies/Missions yearly which are functioning in foreign countries;

(b) the amount spent by each Embassy/Mission during the last 3 years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to reduce the expenditure on missions/embassies abroad and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) The budgetary allocation sanctioned for the expenditure on Indian Embassies/Missions yearly which are functioning in foreign countries during 1975-76, 1976-77 and 1977-78 is given below:—

	Original Grant	Final appropriation
(in Lakhs of Rupees)		
1975-76	1651.60	1937.22
1976-77	1790.20	2171.95
1977-78	2260.59	2559.04

(b) The Statement showing the amount spent by each Embassy/Mis-

sion during the last 3 years, year-wise, is placed on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2931/78].

(c) Expenditure of Indian Missions abroad which comprises of establishment and maintenance expenses is regulated by well defined Service, Financial and Accounting Rules and other orders issued by Government from time to time. The working of Missions abroad is kept constantly under review from Headquarters and the expenditure of Missions is subjected to audit scrutiny, locally and centrally. Economy measures applicable to the Government of India as a whole are adopted in the Missions abroad. As often as possible, the Foreign Service Inspectors inspect Missions and review their work in order to bring about greater economy and efficiency. Through these institutional arrangements efforts are constantly being made to curb avoidable expenditure by the Missions abroad.

The above steps have enabled the Ministry to achieve the following results:—

- (i) Acquisition/construction of property at various places to reduce expenditure on rents.
- (ii) Abolishing of posts in several cases including where feasible of local staff or keeping them in abeyance.
- (iii) Controlling expenditure on office expenditure, travelling allowances, hotel accommodation, etc.
- (iv) Streamlining rules relating to provision and use of staff cars.
- (v) The strictest check on creation of additional posts.
- (vi) Restricting to the minimum replacement of furniture, furnishings and other requirements.

Increase in expenditure abroad is largely due to global inflation over which the Ministry can have no control. The sharpest increases are in items such as rentals, telephone and telegraph charges, airfares and in emoluments payable to local staff.

Continuing efforts are being made to exercise the strictest control over all expenditure.

कृषि तथा औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में रोजगार

1631. श्री रामानन्द तिवारी : क्या संसदीय कार्य तथा श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि कृषि, औद्योगिक तथा अन्य क्षेत्रों में गत दो वर्षों में कितने प्रतिरिक्त व्यक्तियों को रोजगार दिया गया ?

संसदीय कार्य तथा श्रम मंत्री (श्री रवीन्द्र वर्मा) : 1975-77 वर्षों के लिए रोजगार बाजार सूचना कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत अर्थ-व्यवस्था के संगठित क्षेत्र में रोजगार के सम्बन्ध में एकत्र किए गये आंकड़ों के बारे में अद्यतन जानकारी संलग्न विवरण में मुख्य उद्योगवार दी गई है।

रोजगार कार्यालयों के माध्यम से रोजगार पर लगाए गए व्यक्तियों की संख्या तत्सम्बन्धी तीन वर्षों के दौरान अर्थात् 1975 में 4.04 लाख, 1976 में 4.07 तथा 1977 में 4.62 लाख थी। तथापि, यह संख्या कृषि, औद्योगिक और अन्य क्षेत्रों में दो वर्षों के दौरान नियोजित किए गए प्रतिरिक्त व्यक्तियों की कुल संख्या में समय-स्थिति को नहीं दर्शाती।