

Similar information in respect of assesseees against whom arrears as on 31-3-1974 were between Rs. 5 and 10 lakhs, is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as early as possible.

The number of assesseees with arrears between Rs. 1 and 5 lakhs runs into a few thousands. If the Hon'ble Member desires information about any particular assessee or assesseees in the range Rs. 1 to 5 lakhs the same(s) will be collected and furnished.

Proposal for a free trade zone near Dum Dum in Calcutta

4081. SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE:
SHRI LUTFAL HAQUE:
SHRI DEBENDRA NATH MAHATA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal Government had submitted a proposal for a Free Trade Zone near Dum Dum in Calcutta in the month of April, 1973;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) the broad outlines of the action taken up-to-date and the present position of the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A project report on this proposal was received in April, 1973 from the West Bengal Government. It related to the setting up of a Free Trade Zone in an area of 400 acres in Salt Lake Area near Dum Dum, for the manufacture of a number of products for exports, such as Stainless Steel Cutlery, Hand and small tools, Builder's hardware, Finished Leather, Readymade Garments, Scientific and Laboratory equipment, etc. An Inter-Ministerial Official team of the Government of India visited Calcutta in June, 1974 and held discussions with the officials of the Government of West Bengal and also

inspected the site. The details for actual setting up of the Project are being worked out, and the data sought therefor from the West Bengal Government have just been received.

Discussion on West Bengal Proposal for a Free Trade Zone in Calcutta

4082. SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether for a number of times his Ministry held discussion on the West Bengal Government proposal for a Free Trade Zone in Dum Dum in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the dates of holding discussion and the name of the participants;

(c) the number of times the Minister visited Calcutta, date-wise, after receiving the proposal from the State Government for the Free Trade Zone and the number of times discussion took place with the Government as regards to the proposal; and

(d) the result achieved regarding this proposal upto date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir. Discussions were held only once with the Government of West Bengal by an Inter-Ministerial official team of the Government of India.

(b) The Inter-Ministerial Official team under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce held discussions with the Chief Secretary and other officers of the Government of West Bengal on 14th and 15th June, 1974.

(c) The Minister did not make any exclusive visit to Calcutta for this purpose. He discussed this proposal also in Calcutta among other things

(d) The details for actual setting up of the Zone are being worked out. Data sought from West Bengal Government for this project have been just received.