

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Regarding the first two, they have been answered.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What is the nature of the technical assistance?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not necessary to go into those details. Whatever they want.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know, Sir, if in the selection of these experts our Government had any say or not?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Yes. All negotiations for technical assistance are bilateral. They are sent as a result of agreement between the countries concerned.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, who were the experts sent to Burma?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I am sorry I cannot give the names at this stage.

बंधित स्त्री० ऐन० मासपीठ : जिन एक्स-पर्ट्स को बुलाया गया है, क्या भावना ऐसे एक्सपर्ट्स को हिन्दुस्तान में तैयार करने के लिये ऐसी स्कीम बना ली गयी है कि वह एक्सपर्ट्स बाहर से न बुलाने पड़ें और हिन्दुस्तान से बाहर भेजकर या यहाँ काम सिखा कर उन्हीं को तैयार कर लिया जाय ?

श्री बो० आर० भगत : जी हाँ, इसका भी इन्तजाम है ।

EXPORT OF SCRAP MICA

*912. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to put a ban on the export of scrap mica?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (**Shri K. D. Malaviya:**) Yes, Sir. A proposal to ban the export of scrap mica for a period of two or three years as an experimental measure is under consideration.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know, Sir, the reason for the banning of these exports?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is said that out of the scrap mica that is exported from here an attempt is being made to produce a type of synthetic mica called 'Semica'. So we thought that by banning our exports of scrap mica we might be able to restrict the production of 'Semica' outside.

Shri Nanadas: Is it a fact, Sir, that even if we ban the exports of scrap mica from our country, the requirements of mica can be met by South America, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Italy, Norway and Sweden?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are the biggest exporters of scrap mica; 80 per cent. is exported by us. But it is also a fact that certain countries are producing mica and exporting it to America and other countries.

Shri Nanadas: Do the Government propose to call for the viewpoints of all the parties concerned in mica scrap trade before taking any decision to ban the exports?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The matter is being considered by the Commerce and Industry Ministry and they will take into consideration all the aspects.

Shri Natesan: Is there any proposal to manufacture micanite in Madras?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: So far, as Government is concerned, No, Sir.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I seek this information—whether India is importing scrap mica from Brazil?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No.

Shri Natesan: Is the Government aware of the fact that there is a factory producing micanite in Gudur?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He does not know.

Shri Raghavaiah: To what countries was scrap mica exported in the past?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What were the countries to which scrap mica was exported before banning?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I said the ban is under consideration. We have not yet imposed the ban. The biggest importing country is the U.S.A.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware of the fact that this ban on the export of mica is resulting in unemployment of a large number of workers?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: So far as I said, Sir, the Government have not banned the exports. The proposal to ban exports is under consideration. There are other reasons for the exports having gone down.

Shri N. Brockdas Nair: May I know, Sir, what is the total quantity of scrap mica exported last year and whether this trade is being conducted by monopolists or small-scale agents?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: If the hon. Member puts a separate question on this, I will give an answer.

Shri Balwant Singh Mehta: Is it a fact, Sir, that synthetic mica has got certain advantages over mica splittings in its use?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are not producers of synthetic mica, and therefore, we cannot say anything about it.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it under the contemplation of Government, Sir, to produce synthetic mica from scrap mica in India?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir. We do not need to produce synthetic mica because we have the genuine stuff.

COLOMBO PLAN AID

*913. **Shri Raghavalah:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) what are the allocations of wheat made for the current fiscal year, by the Government of Canada, under the Colombo Plan aid;

(b) how much it is less or more than the allocation made last year by the same Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of India had requested for a greater allocation of wheat for this year; and

(d) how much more aid under the Colombo Plan will be rendered by the Government of Canada for this year and in what forms?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) \$5 million for the purchase of wheat.

(b) Last year's allocation was \$10 million.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) \$8.6 million for supply of equipment for an approved development project or projects.

Shri Raghavalah: May I know the shipping facilities given to the transport of this wheat from Canada to this country?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member feels that Canada itself must afford shipping facilities for the transport of this wheat. Were any shipping facilities given to us by Canada?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: No shipping facilities were offered.

Shri Damodara Mehon: Arising out of answer to (c), may I know, Sir, how far the request for greater allocation of wheat is compatible with the declared policy of the Government to reduce the import of wheat?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a question for opinion.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether the wheat given by Canada to India is by way of loan or by way of grant?

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): Sir, it is according to the Colombo Plan that we received this. Some of the members of Parliament in Canada felt that rather than exporting wheat to that amount they may give some other articles which we need here. But we insisted that we get wheat, sell it here and then utilise the amount in development plans, so that we might use the money wherever it was needed. Canada has agreed this time to provide us with wheat worth five million dollars and for the next year, our representative who is at present in U.S.A. will negotiate with them and we shall soon be in a position to know as to what this aid will come to in future.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, if a considerable portion of the wheat supplied by Canada last year was found unfit for human consumption?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I have no information, Sir.

Shri Raghavalah: May I know, Sir, whether the allocation of wheat made by this Government this year is more or less than it was last year?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is less, Sir. It is given in the answer.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know the relative prices of wheat in the internal market in Canada and that paid for by us and also how it compares with the International price?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is a question of details for other countries but I may inform the member that the wheat is purchased under the International Wheat Agreement.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether the wheat we are getting from Canada is purchased in the open market or whether the Government of Canada purchases and sends it to India?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is a government to government transaction and is under the International Wheat Agreement.