

### Export of Ores

\*2163. **Shri Deogam** : Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the exporters of Ores have submitted a joint memorandum to Government requesting for an increase in the quota for the export of Ores equal to that of January—June, 1955, as a result of improvement in the supply position of Railway wagons ;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in the matter ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar)** : (a) Yes, Sir. Presumably the reference is to the representation dated 6th September, 1955 addressed to Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Calcutta.

(b) and (c). The policy for the current period already provides that applications for supplementary allotments would be considered if established shippers and min-owners find that their normal allotments are inadequate for enabling them to take full advantage of business on offer and wagon availability.

### Requisitioned Buildings

\*2164. **Shri M. D. Joshi** : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 906 on the 29th September, 1954 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to release the requisitioned buildings in Connaught Circus, New Delhi ; and

(b) if so, the arrangements proposed to be made to accommodate the present occupants of these buildings ?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh)** : (a) and (b). The requisitioned buildings in Connaught Place, as in other areas, will be gradually de-requisitioned as and when this becomes possible. When buildings are de-equisitioned, Government endeavours to find alternative accommodation in Government owned or other requisitioned buildings for the occupants who are eligible for Government accommodation.

**Shri M. D. Joshi** : One of the buildings specifically referred to in Unstarred Question No. 906 was York Hotel ; may I know whether Government are aware that some journalists and correspondents are at present housed in York Hotel ?

**Sardar Swaran Singh** : I won't be surprised if they are, because certain journalists have been given Government accommodation.

**Shri M. D. Joshi** : In case Government are going to derequisition this Hotel, what alternative arrangement do Government propose to make for housing these journalists and correspondents ?

**Sardar Swaran Singh** : I have already attempted to give a reply to that question in the second sentence of the reply which I have just read out.

### Price of Raw Jute

\*2165. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury** : Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sudden abnormal fall in the price of raw jute ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter ?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar)** : (a) There was some decline in prices of raw jute from the middle of August to the beginning of the current month but it was neither sudden nor abnormal. There was a similar decline in prices about the same time last year. However this downward trend appears to have been arrested and prices are showing an upward trend.

(b). Does not arise.

**Shri N. B. Chowdhury** : In view of the fact that the price of raw jute fell from Rs.39-8-0 in February to Rs.23-8-0 in the first week of September, may I know whether Government have taken any steps to see that the prices of raw jute are stabilised at an economic level ?

**Shri Karmarkar** : There is nothing frightening about it and Government do not propose to take any steps in this regard.

**Shri N. B. Chowdhury** : May I know whether Government have made any calculation as to the economic price of raw jute and if so, what is that price ?

**Shri Karmarkar** : I shall require notice for this question ; but the present level of price is not uneconomic in the opinion of the Government.

**Shri L. N. Mishra** : May I know why the prices of raw jute fall down every year during this period and as the raw jute passes from the hands of the growers to the hands of exporters the prices start rising ? This is a regular trend. Have Government tried to examine it ?