

an IPS officer, shall be treated as ex-cadre for him.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of Pellets from Kudremukh Plant by Romania

7845. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Romania has decided to import iron ore and pellets from the Kudremukh plant at Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details of their requirement and whether any agreement between the two countries in this regard has been reached; and

(c) if so, the other countries which have agreed to import iron ore and pellets from the Kudremukh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Romania has indicated its interest in purchase of about 0.5 million tonnes of pellets from Kudremukh plant at Mangalore. No agreement has, however, been signed so far.

(c) Countries which have offered to buy or are expected to import iron ore concentrates from Kudremukh during 1987-88 are Japan, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, China, Australia and France. Countries which have offered to buy pellets from Kudremukh during 1987-88 are Hungary, Australia, Turkey, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

Setting up of Shrimp Culture Complex by MMTC

7846. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals

Trading Corporation (MMTC) is to take up shrimp export in a big way after setting up an artificial Shrimp Culture Complex at a cost of over Rs. 25 crores;

(b) if so, details of the project and whether this is in accordance with the approved Memorandum of activities of the Corporation, as reported in the Economic Times dated 9 January, 1987;

(c) whether other public sector units will also be allowed to take up similar projects in order to earn foreign exchange; and

(d) whether Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation will take up exports of soyabean feeds also which are in great demand in EEC and surplus to our needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). MMTC has received a proposal for export of shrimp linked with the setting up of a unit for artificial cultivation of shrimp in India. The Memorandum of Association of MMTC do not debar it from undertaking such projects for exports.

(c) Projects which result in foreign exchange earnings will be considered on merit, if received.

(d) MMTC has been exporting soyameals to countries like Bulgaria, Iran and Libya since 1985-86 and intends to boost their exports by identifying new markets.

Export of Sesumum Oilseed

7847. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of a large quantity of sesumum oilseed released by Government during 1986-87 hardly any appreciable exports have taken place so far; and

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to step up export of this

item so that the producers are encouraged and a good amount of foreign exchange is earned for the country?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). The exports of sesumum seed during 1986-87 which was canalised through NAFED was 110 MTS valued at Rs. 9.80 lakhs. The low export performance was primarily on account of wide disparity between domestic and international prices of sesame seed on account of low internal production. Due to overall edible oil shortage in the country, the prices of seame seed have shown significant increases and are currently prevailing at around Rs. 1200 per quintal as against a price of Rs. 750 per quintal during 1985-86.

While efforts are being made to increase exports of sesame seed during the current financial year, the present prevailing prices within the country offer adequate incentives to the producers. There is considerable consumption of sesame seed within the country for preparation of eatables. There is also demand for sesame seed by the vanaspati units.

[*Translation*]

**Loss of Cotton Due to Fire in
Cotton Corporation in
Vijaynagar, Rajasthan**

7848. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a fire in a big heap of cotton lying with the Cotton Corporation of India in Vijaynagar, Rajasthan during January 1987 to March 1987;

(b) if so, the estimated loss due to the fire;

(c) whether the causes of fire were inquired into and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) action taken against persons found

responsible?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There was an accidental fire on 1-3-1987 at Srivijayanagar Centre in Rajasthan and the damage in the fire to the stocks of cotton would be about Rs. 22.00 lakhs.

(c) and (d). The Cotton Corporation of India is investigating into the causes of fire. The action to be taken against the persons would depend upon the results of the investigation.

[*English*]

**Sericulture Project in Andhra
Pradesh**

7849. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Sericulture Board has sought aid from the Agricultural Finance Corporation for launching five sericulture projects in Andhra Pradesh and for other States at a total cost of Rs. 300/- crores;

(b) the reaction of Union Government and the Agricultural Finance Corporation to this proposal; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent in Andhra Pradesh towards these sericulture projects and the details of projects for which the amount is likely to be spent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Memorandum of Understanding by
STC**

7850. SHRI YASHWANTRAOGADAKH PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: