

**Rent being paid by Indian Embassies**

3181. **SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) how much money (in foreign exchange) Government are paying as rent for the buildings for their embassies in different countries;

(b) whether Government have any plans to "own our own homes" abroad; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU):** (a) The annual rent paid for office and residential buildings hired for Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad was Rs. 577.08 lakhs as on 1st March, 1977.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Richness Richaries of Ladakh and Kargil Areas in Minerals**

3182. **SHRIMATI PARVATI DEVI:** Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ladakh and Kargil areas are rich in mineral wealth like copper, chromite, sulphur, limestone, borax, soda and gold dust;

(b) whether any comprehensive survey has been carried out in regard to these minerals; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for commercial exploitation of these minerals?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA):** (a) Investigations so far carried out by GSI have indicated about 210,700 tonnes of crude sulphur, about 5,400 tonnes of borax, about 6,60,000 tonnes of sodium salt and about 525,000 tonnes of limestone with some occurrences of copper, chromite and gold dust in Ladakh and Kargil areas.

(b) Geological Survey is a continuous process. G.S.I. proposes to carry out mineral investigations in Ladakh and Kargil during the field season 1977-78.

(c) It is yet premature to consider commercial exploitation of these minerals.

**Promotions of Momiai**

3183. **SHRIMATI PARVATI DEVI:** Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in Ladakh 'Momiai' a natural medicine which oozes out of the stone due to extreme heat during day and much prized for energy, vitality and vigour is available;

(b) whether this substance is in great demand in India and outside;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the availability of Momiai for people in the country and promote its export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV):** (a) 'Momiai' is stated to be a natural product, resembling Silajit, obtained from the mountains in Arabia and Persia. However, there is no information regarding its availability in Ladakh. The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

(b) There is demand for Momiai from manufacturers of Unani medicines, but it is not known whether there is any demand for 'Momiai' outside India.

(c) and (d). 'Momiai' is not available in India; it is imported. Hence the question of promoting its export does not arise.