

ward areas of Bihar etc., and alternative work to the MITCO which has now no work on account of steep decline in production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). There has been a declining trend in production of mica since 1969. Complete statistics of actual production in a year is, however, not available.

(c) According to the Labour Statistics the total number of workers engaged in mica industry during 1971 was 29,000. The level of employment has not declined since. As mica exports have shown a gradual increase over the last three years, the question of alternative work for MITCO does not arise.

Export of Processed Mica

7447. SHRI RAM SWAROOP RAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports of processed mica have been reaching the lowest ever level quantity-wise; and

(b) what are the quantities of processed mica other than scrap and waste exported in 1970-71 before the canalisation through a public sector agency and in 1977-78 separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. Exports of processed mica for the last three years were:

Year	Quantity	Value
	(:000 tonnes)	(Rs. in crores)
1977-78	14.91	18.75
1978-79	14.67	19.23
1979-80	18.86	23.04

(b) Export of processed mica other than scrap and waste has been:

Year	Quantity	Value
	('000 tonnes)	(Rs. in crores)
1970-71	7.29	14.63
1977-78	5.13	17.39

Fire in Godown of MITCO at Giridih

7448. SHRI RAM SWAROOP RAM:
SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of loss which the MITCO suffered due to fire in its godowns at Giridih last year;

(b) whether any amount was written off the account books and what amount of money was claimed from the Insurance Company and realised; and

(c) whether the mica burnt by such fire was disposed of by the Insurance Company, if disposed of what total price it fetched?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) MITCO suffered a loss of Rs. 22,10,354/- due to fire in its Giridih godown last year.

(b) No, Sir. The insurance company settled the entire claim for the above mentioned amount after detailed investigations.

(c) Yes, Sir. Disposal of the damaged mica by the insurance company fetched them a sum of Rs. 1,87,000.

Export Duty on Fabricated Mica Parts

7449. SHRI RAM SWAROOP RAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fabricated Mica parts are subject to export duty of 10 per cent *ad valorem*;