

(b) whether it is a fact that a delegation from the U.S.S.R. visited our country but went back without giving orders; and

(c) the effect of refusal of U.S.S.R. to give their orders to the MIFCO on Mica Industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). A statement is attached.

Statement

Contracts for export of Mica to USSR are generally negotiated twice a year—the main contract in December/January and the supplementary contract in September/October.

A contract has been signed in December 1981 for export of processed Mica worth Rs. 11.40 crores during 1982.

A one man delegation from USSR visited India in April 1982 to negotiate *ad hoc* mid-term requirement worth Rs. 4.84 crores, bulk of which consisted of higher grade big size Mica only. No agreement could be reached because USSR was neither willing to pay 25 per cent premium prescribed for exclusive purchase of higher grades, nor to buy the prescribed matching quantity of smaller sized Mica.

It is expected that negotiations for supplementary contract will be taken up as usual in September/October.

Tea Board's Antioxidants Scheme

5227. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for keeping in suspended animation the Tea Board's antioxidants scheme; and

(b) the total amount spent on this scheme from August, 1971 to March, 1982 and the benefit that accrued from this expenditure?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Work under Tea Board's scheme on "Utilisation of Tea Sweepings at the University College of science and technology, Calcutta has not been started pending construction of requisite shed within the university campus for the installation of bench scale plant for further experiments in the laboratory.

(b) The total amount spent on the scheme from August 1971 to March, 1982 is Rs. 8.40 lakhs. The results of researches under the scheme show that Tea sweepings and other forms of Tea Waste can be gainfully utilised as source material for extraction of a number of Chemicals which example, it has been shown that they have diverse industrial uses. For Tea polyphenols and their different fractions, either in the original state after chemical treatment could have wide applicability as antioxidants in different materials, such as, fatty oils and oil-based products (Vanaspatis) petroleum fractions, natural rubber, plastics, essential oils etc. At present, industries manufacturing these substance use large quantities of other antioxidants of which almost the entire amount is imported. Development of a suitable method for commercial extraction of the antioxidants from Tea sweepings and other tea wastes would thus scout in substantial savings in foreign exchange now spent on importation of antioxidants. The results of researches under the Board's scheme would be made available to entrepreneurs after the bench scale experiments have been completed.

Indian Cotton Mills

5228. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Corporation of India did not insist on the execution of bank guarantee by a large number of Indian Cot-