

(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 (Vanaspati) 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-

ton Mills before advising the Foreign suppliers to ship the cotton in the name of respective Mills during the period from July 1977 to June 1979;

(b) whether it is also a fact that when the cotton imported on Mills account arrived in India, a number of such Mills did not clear the bales and consequently the Corporation had to clear the bales and in this process the Corporation suffered huge losses;

(c) if so, the amount of such losses during the aforesaid period and the amount of loss apportioned to each such mill; and

(d) the particulars of the defaulting mills and also whether any legal proceedings had been launched against the mills in question?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Even though the Cotton Corporation of India insisted on the execution of Bank guarantee by the Mills, about 75 mills covering about 47,812 bales valued at about Rs. 17.12 crores did not furnish the Bank Guarantee.

(b) and (c). A number of Mills did not clear the bales and consequently the Corporation had to clear the bales and dispose them of in the market. Details about the amount of loss apportioned to each such Mill are given in the statement laid on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. see No. LT-4996/82].

(d) The Corporation has already initiated legal proceedings against all the defaulting Mills.

Memo to P.M. from Builders Association of Srinagar, Kashmir against Corruption and Misuse of Authority by M.E.S. Officers

5229. SHRI CHANDRABHAN ATHARE PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 10454 on the 30th April, 1982 re:

Memo to P.M. from Builders Association of Srinagar, Kashmir against corruption and misuse of authority by M.E.S. Officers and state:

(a) whether the Inquiry Board constituted to look into the allegations of corruption and misuse of authority by MES officials at Srinagar has completed its inquiry,

(b) if so, the details of facts in respect of each of the allegations made in the memorandum,

(c) the main recommendations of the Inquiry Board,

(d) action taken by Government thereon, and

(e) steps Government have taken or propose to take to check corruption and misuse of authority in the MES department?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (e). The report of the Court of Inquiry is expected to be received shortly. Appropriate action based on the findings of the Court of Inquiry would be taken.

विदेश से उर्वरक का आयात

5230. श्री निहाल सिंह : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कृषि मंत्रालय ने उर्वरक आयात के लिए उनके मंत्रालय से विदेशी मुद्रा की मांगकी है जबकि देश में उर्वरक पर्याप्त मात्रा में उपलब्ध है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि मंत्रालय द्वारा उर्वरक आयात करने का असली मकसद बड़े पैमाने पर धन कमाना है; और

(ग) यदि भाग (क) और (ख) का उत्तर सकारात्मक है, तो विदेशों से उर्वरक आयात करने के क्या कारण हैं?