

General Currency Area & Rupees Currency Area.

(b) Mica being a canalised item, all contracts for export of mica including export to Hard Currency Area negotiated in the name of Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd., Patna.

(c) Does not arise.

Visit of FICCI Delegation to Foreign Countries

5235. SHRI G. NARASIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a FICCI delegation recently visited some foreign countries to explore the possibility of third country ventures with the collaboration of foreign countries;

(b) whether the FICCI team has submitted any detailed report in this regard; and

(c) whether the ventures are going to be in the private sector or Government will also participate in it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) (a) to (c) During the year 1982, three delegations had gone abroad under the auspices of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. These delegations had visited (1) Egypt and Nigeria (2) Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Dubai and (3) Sweden. According to the normally accepted practice the discussions of these delegations these countries covered three major aspects: (a) promotion of bilateral trade (b) scope for establishment of joint ventures in each other's country and (c) possibility of setting up of joint ventures in third countries. FICCI delegations normally identify the areas of co-operation between India and the countries visited and it is left to the companies both in the

private and public sectors to take the necessary initiative in arranging the tie-ups.

Penalty Claims against Defaulting Exporters

5236. SHRI SAMINUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Apparels Export Promotion Council, New Delhi has penalty claims against exporters including Members of the Executive Committee for non-fulfilment of export obligations; and

(b) do Government propose an independent inquiry by and outside agency like CCI & E, to go into such defaults?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apparels Export Promotion Council has intimated that action has been initiated by the Council to invoke bank guarantees in all cases except appeal or court cases have been filed. Therefore, the need for any other inquiry does not arise.

Reduction of Prices of Controlled Cloth

5237. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of controlled cloth has been increased, if so, the percentage of increase;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to this rise, huge stocks of controlled cloth are lying unsold at the primary and link society level, particularly in the State of Orissa; and

(c) whether Government of India have been requested to reduce the present prices; if so, what action has been taken?