

(b) if so, whether any enquiry in the matter has been made; and

(c) what has been the finding thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A representative of the Australian buyers has met the Jute Commissioner on 2nd July to bring to his notice some complaints of this nature.

(b) and (c). The Jute Commissioner has taken up the matter with the Shipping Corporation of India. The SCI have stated that survey reports of independent Cargo surveyors in Australia and original documents would be necessary to form a judgement regarding allegations made.

SHRI CHANDRA BHAN ATHARE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the answer given by the hon'ble Minister may I know the amount of damage and demurrage expenses caused by this transaction and, if so, from whom the same expenses have been recovered?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is difficult to determine the extent of damage because all the figures are not available with us. I can give the figures about the claims that the buyers have made. But my difficulty is if I quote the figures about the claims the buyers will utilise the same to substantiate their demands. That is why I will request the hon'ble Member not to press for these figures. Let us have the detailed figures and let the Shipping Corporation of India examine them.

SHRI CHANDRA BHAN ATHARE PATIL: In view of the difficulty expressed by the Minister I do not

press for the figures. I want to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Commissioner had asked the Shipping Corporation of India to obtain necessary records as mentioned in the answer?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes, Sir. Secretary has written to the Vice-Chairman of the Shipping Corporation of India to look into it and have an enquiry.

**** (Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded without my permission.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Investment by Unit Trust of India in Mackinnon Mackenzie and Co. Ltd., Bombay

*901. **DR. A. U. AZMI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Unit Trust of India has invested a large amount in the Mackinnon Mackenzie and Company Limited, Bombay, and has also appointed a Director as its nominee on the Board of the Company;

(b) if so, the total amount of such investment;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Company is trying to bring about change in the management by transfer of shares in the Company so far held by foreigners; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such transfer of shares by the company, consequent transfer and/or change in the management of the company and to protect the interest of Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). The Unit Trust of India has invested an amount of Rs. 1,26,500 in 72,650 equity shares of Rs. 10 each in Mackinnon Mackenzie and Company Limited and has also appointed a Director as its nominee on the Board of the company.

(c) and (d). The Reserve Bank of India received an application under Section 19(5) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 from the British India Steam Navigation Company Limited, London, for permission to transfer 10 lakh equity shares of Rs. 10 each, held by the U.K. company in Mackinnon Mackenzie and Company Limited to private party. This proposal has since been rejected by the Reserve Bank of India. The question of transfer and/or change in the management of the company consequent upon such transfer, therefore, does not arise.

Upgradation of Jullundur

***904. SHRI RAMJIBHAI B. MAVANI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India has upgraded Jullundur city in B-2 category for all purposes some time ago;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Jullundur city was upgraded in B-2 category by the State Government for the payment of H.R.A./C.C.A. to the State Government employees and the Central Government had upgraded the said city in B-2 category after lapse of nearly 10 months and effect of upgradation was given from the date of the issue of O.M. by the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). It is not known whether the State Government have upgraded Jullundur city in B-2 for the payment of House Rent Allowance/Compensatory (City) Allowance to its staff. However, the Central Government do not follow the practice of the State Government in this regard and the question of any time-lag does not arise.

Shifting of Head Office of SAIL to Ranchi

***905. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have shifted the head office of SAIL to Ranchi; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposal to shift the headquarters of Steel Authority of India Limited to Ranchi is still under consideration.

Sharing formula devised by MMTC/HITCO for export of processed Mica

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

(a) what is the genesis of the sharing formula of 40:60 devised by the MMTC/MITCO for export of processed Mica;

(b) how does this sharing formula operate with regard to private exporters/foreign buyers and MITCO;

(c) what are the benefits derived by MITCO by operation of the sharing formula; and