

for fixing the statutory minimum prices for upcountry markets because of these reasons.

(c) and (d) The question of fixing the statutory minimum prices of raw jute for Calcutta market also has been recommended by the COPU in its Third Report. This is under consideration.

Observance of the prescribed conditions for sale of vessels by the C.I.W.T.C.

348. SHRI RABI RAY-
SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH
SURJEET :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conditions prescribed for the sale of vessels were observed by the officials of the C.I.W.T.C.;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) to (c) Conditions prescribed for the sale of vessels were relaxed and negotiations held by officers of the C.I.W.T.C. with tenders. Such relaxations were made in regard to mode of payment and terms of delivery. The management of C.I.W.T.C. has indicated that the conditions of sale were relaxed in order to secure higher prices for vessels. The matter has, however, been referred to C.B.I. for investigation.

Sale of vessel RAJMAGORE'

349. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH
SURJEET:
SHRI RABI RAY :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an advertisement was made by the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation for the sale of the vessel 'RAJMAGORE', having a book value of Rs. 26,667 but it was substituted by the vessel 'Pallora' having a book value of Rs. 99,121 and given illegally to the buyer;

(b) whether it is also a fact that prior approval of the Board was not sought to sell the vessel 'Pallora' and the Board declared the sale of 'Pallora' as irregular;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in the matter; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the concerned officials who are involved in the fraudulent deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : (a) The correct name of the vessel sold, however, was "RAJNAGAR" and the book value of vessel "Pallora" was Rs. 9121. It is a fact that advertisement was made for the sale of vessel 'Raj-nagar' but delivery of vessel 'Pallora' was given instead.

(b) Prior approval of the Board was not obtained. The Board, however, accorded the *ex-post-facto* approval on receipt of former Principal Adviser's report.

(c) The matter has been referred to C.B.I. for investigation.

(d) Further action will be taken on receipt of report of investigation by C.B.I.

Synthetic oil from Coal

350. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have dropped the scheme for producing synthetic oil from coal; and