

Seizure of Gold in Bombay

48. PROF. N. M. KAMBLE :

SHRI K. N. DHULAP :

SHRI R. D. JAGTAP AVER-
GAONKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The quantity of gold seized by the Central Excise and other authorities in Bombay during the last three years ; and

(b) the number of persons prosecuted in this connection and with what result ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The quantity of gold seized by the Central Excise, Customs and State Government authorities in Bombay during the last three years under the Customs Act and Gold Control Act is given below :—

1972 981 Kgs.

1973 575 Kgs.

1974 156 Kgs.

(b) 63 persons were prosecuted in this connection for the above three years. So far 26 persons have been convicted, 2 persons have been acquitted and 4 persons have been discharged. Prosecutions against 31 persons are still pending in the courts.

Trade with USSR and Czechoslovakia

49. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent trade negotiations with U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia have broken down ;

(b) if so, whether the U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia have blamed MMTC and Mica Trading Corporation for the failure of talks ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereon and the likely im-

pact on the Indian trade with these countries and steps contemplated to resume the trade negotiations with these countries ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI V. P. SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Export of mica

50. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been considerable decline in the export of mica to Japan and U.S.A. during the last three years ;

(b) if so, the year-wise decline in the export of mica to these countries during 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74 and the reasons therefor ;

(c) the estimated loss in foreign exchange suffered as a result thereof ; and

(d) the steps being taken to step up the export of mica to these countries during 1974-75 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI V. P. SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Export of mica to Japan and U.S.A. has increased in value over the last three years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Assistance for leather goods exports

51. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give export assistance to leather goods exporters ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the decision taken in this regard ; and