

(a) whether Government have asked the jute industry to reduce the prevailing prices of hessian in return for a reduction of export duty on hessian;

(c) what is the reaction of the industry gard;

(c) what is the reaction of the industry to the proposal; and

(d) what will be the estimated increase in the quantum of export of hessian during the current year as a result of this measure?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Government had in fact raised the export duties on hessian in March, 1974. There has been an abnormal rise in hessian prices on account of an imbalance between production and demand as also speculation in the market. Government have conveyed their concern to the jute industry and trade over this abnormal rise in hessian prices.

Reduction in Price of Aviation Fuel

*327. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is demanding a reduction in the price of aviation fuel; and

(b) whether any survey has been made of the class of persons who travel by air and their capacity to afford the present enhanced fares in order to determine the plea for reduction in the price of aviation fuel?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Such a request has been made by Indian Airlines, and the matter is under examination.

(b) No such survey has been conducted in recent years but Indian Airlines keeps in mind the ability of the travelling public to afford this mode of travel.

*328. [Transferred to the 14th August, 1974.]

Lease for Indian Air Lines Office Building

*329. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly Rs. 7 lakhs was paid by Indian Airlines as lease money for securing about 19,000 sq. ft. of space for its office in Kanchenjunga Building on Barakhamba Road, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a lease at a monthly rent of Rs. 60,000 was signed and about Rs. 3.5 lakhs was paid as advance money to the owners and subsequently about Rs. 3.5 lakhs was paid as rent till March last; and

(c) if so, whether the Central Bureau of Investigations have conducted enquiry into the affairs; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines have taken on lease 18,947 sq. ft. of space in Kanchenjunga at 18, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi. They have paid in advance Rs. 3.75 lakhs in all as six months' rent to be adjusted in twelve months and one month's rent as security deposit.

(c) This Ministry is not aware of any C.B.I. enquiry in this regard.

खनिज धातुओं का निर्यात

*330. सरदार कुमार सं० चं० आग्ने :

श्री ओउम प्रकाश त्यागी :

श्री भैरों सिंह शेखावत :

डा० राम कृपाल सिंह :

श्री देवेन्द्र नाथ द्विवेदी :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्रत्येक वर्ष कच्चे लोहे, मैंगनीज और कच्चे क्रोमाइट का कितना-कितना निर्यात किया गया ; और