

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

A.I.C.C. PANEL RECOMMENDATION ON BUILDING OF LUXURIOUS AND PALATIAL BUILDINGS

*190. SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recommendation made in the Report of the A.I.C.C. panel on economic policy regarding the building of luxurious and palatial buildings in the private and public sector; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government do not normally construct luxurious or palatial buildings. Only functional buildings are constructed to meet the requirements of Government and its employees. Construction of luxurious and palatial buildings in the private sector is likely to be affected by fiscal and other measures, some of which are already under consideration.

SHORTFALL IN THE PRODUCTION OF MICA

*191. SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been considerable shortfall in the production of mica during the last three years ;

(b) if so, the comparative shortfall during the last three years and whether Government have made any assessment in regard to the reasons for the shortfall in the production of mica; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to develop the mica industry which is an important foreign exchange earner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGAN-NATH RAO): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The production of crude mica during 1969 has declined by 4.7 per cent as compared to 1967.

(b) and (c) The comparative figures of production of crude mica during the last four years are given below which show a declining trend in the last three years:—

Year	Production (Crude Mica) (Tonnes)
1966	22,052
1967	18,152
1968	17,667
1969 (Provisional)	17,294

The fall in the production of mica has been attributed mainly to the vagaries of the international market as substantial part of the indigenous production is exported. Exports have been affected by competition from other countries like Brazil & Malagasy, releases from U.S. Stockpile & development of synthetic substitutes for natural mica. The Government of India have recently appointed a Working Group to study in details the various problems of the industry. To increase the exports of this item recently the Government reduced export duty on No. 5½ and 6 Loose Splittings from 40 to 20 per cent. Earlier the Government had also reduced the export duty on