

processions, political demonstrations, religious ceremonies, etc. Subject to that disciplinary control, it is free to play anywhere at the discretion of the Band Committee.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Was this premiere a public show or only meant for the officers in our Armed Forces ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : It was largely attended by our officers.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : It was a public show then.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I do not know the details of this show but according to my information, it was attended by a very large number of officers who were invited to witness it.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Was it an American picture which was shown there on that day ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I am not aware of the nationality of that picture.

SYNTHETIC MICA

*165. SHRI R. G. AGARWALA : Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in the United States and in France factories have been put up for the manufacture of synthetic mica as a substitute for mica, the raw material for which is scrap mica, which is exported from India in large quantities ;

(b) whether Government are aware that one of the reasons for the slump in mica industry is the manufacture of this synthetic mica ; and

(c) whether Government propose to impose a ban on the export of scrap mica, if not, why not ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : (a) By "synthetic mica" is meant mica produced from its consti-

tuents or from other substances. Such mica has not yet been produced though it is claimed that certain laboratories in U. S. A. have produced mica crystals of comparatively small sizes.

(b) It is understood that the present fall in the demand for mica is due to lack of demand of certain categories of splittings in consequence of the cessation of purchase under the stock piling programme of the U. S. A.

(c) A proposal to ban the export of scrap mica for a period of two or three years, as an experimental measure, is under consideration.

SHRI R. G. AGARWALA : Is it not a fact Sir, that, the mica industry depends on exports for its existence as there is no home consumption ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Yes, Sir.

SHRI R. G. AGARWALA : Is it not a fact, that the Central Mica Advisory Committee which consists of the States, the Centre and the industry has recommended the total ban on export of scrap mica from India in their meetings held at Jaipur, Madras and Calcutta ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : The recommendation of the Mica Advisory Committee has been that as an experimental measure, exports of scrap mica should be banned for some time.

SHRI R. G. AGARWALA : Is the hon. Minister aware that the Mica Association of Bihar has recommended its immediate stoppage ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : I am not aware of that.

SHRI O. SOBHANI : Has the Government invited any experts to advise it on the utilisation of mica in our own country ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : We have initiated recently a Mica Research

Advisory Committee under the auspices of our Glass and Ceramics Research Institute of Calcutta.

SHRI BARKATULLAH KHAN : May I know how long the Government would take to take a decision on the banning of the export of scrap mica ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : The proposal is under consideration in the Commerce and Industry Ministry. As soon as they come to a decision, the Government will give effect to it.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Has the Government received any representation from the mica traders of Gudur in Nellore District of Madras State against the banning of the export of scrap mica ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Yes, there has been some difference between the various producers on the question of the export of scrap mica.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Has the pressure on the Government to ban the export of scrap mica come from the big merchants ? Is it aware that it affects the small merchants ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : No, in the interest of the country as a whole, we have before us no such considerations of whether representations come from big companies or small companies.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is not this proposal to ban the export of scrap mica going to affect the small mica traders in Nellore District ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : No, and as a matter of fact, the question of banning the export of mica in general just now is not of great importance because there is already a big fall in the export of mica because people outside do not need it just now.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Sir, I wanted to ask if these experiments for the manufacture of synthetic mica from natural mica were successful. Would the hon. Minister consider the possibility of producing synthetic rice from natural rice ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. Prof. N. G. Ranga ; he is not here.

(For answer to Question No. 166, vide column 1181 *supra*.)

ALLOWANCES TO OFFICERS

*167. SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rates of travelling, halting and other allowances, if any paid to officials going abroad on duty ;

(b) who is the authority for checking and passing such expenditure ;

(c) whether any officers have drawn any such allowances in excess ; and if so, what are their numbers and what action has been taken in each case ; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred annually during the last five years on account of travelling, halting and other allowances paid to the officers sent abroad on duty ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH) : (a) (i) *Travelling allowance*.— $1\frac{1}{2}$ fares in respect of journey by rail to the port of embarkation in India, and single sea or air fare to the place of destination and back.

(ii) *Halting allowance*.—A statement embodying the rates of daily allowance sanctioned for the various places abroad is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 40.]

(b) The authority responsible for the disbursement of the allowances is the Chief Accounts Officer of the Indian Legation abroad where they are drawn, and the authority for the audit is the Audit Officer within whose jurisdiction the officer is employed in India.

(c) No information is available regarding overpayments, if any, made by disbursing authorities abroad, but, as all disbursements made abroad are audited by the Audit Officer concerned in India, it may be assumed that, if