

## COUNCIL OF STATES

Wednesday, 10th December 1952

The Council met at a quarter to eleven of the clock, Mr. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### SCRAP MICA

\*172. SHRI V. K. DHAGE : (a) Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state how the scrap mica available in the country is utilised ?

(b) Is any scrap mica exported ? If so, what is the quantity and value of scrap mica exported during the last three years ? To which countries were these exports made ?

(c) What is the customs revenue earned during the last three years from the export of scrap mica ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) A small quantity is used in this country in the manufacture of motor tyres, grease and boiler laggings, and in dusting mica splittings. In addition, there are a few firms which are planning to manufacture micanite. The rest is exported.

(b) Yes. A statement giving the information required is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 45.]

(c) No customs duty is levied on the export of scrap mica.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Is the Government planning to prohibit the export of scrap mica ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Recommendations have been made to that effect and we are considering them.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Has the Mica Enquiry Committee made any recommendations in this regard ?

51 C. S. D.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Our information is that the Mica Enquiry Committee have recommended the banning of exports of scrap mica.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Has the mica trading interests protested against the banning of exports of scrap mica ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : It was the mica trading interests that have made that recommendation to us.

PROF. G. RANGA : May I know what steps Government are taking in order to help this mica industry which is going through an unprecedented depression ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : This question is with regard to scrap mica, Sir. About mica proper, I want notice.

#### HANDLOOM CLOTH

\*173. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : (a) Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether Government are aware that thousands of bales of handloom cloth are lying undisposed of in the country ?

(b) Do Government propose to find an outlet for these accumulated goods ? If so, how ?

(c) Have Government any plan to ensure the handloom workers a regular supply of yarn and regular sale of cloth ? If so, what is it ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Reports that handloom cloth is not moving have been received.

(b) and (c). The measures taken by Government in this direction have already been referred to in reply to the Unstarred Question No. 39 on the 8th December 1952.

I may add that recent exports of handloom cloth have been very encouraging. The figures for October have been the highest during this year, about 6 million yards.