

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Certain matters connected with the welfare of Defence Personnel were discussed in a general way in a meeting of the General Committee of the Army Central Welfare Fund, whose members include all Army commanders. No plans were, however, formulated.

(d) Does not arise.

Calcutta Port Trust Officials

2934. **SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARMA:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Calcutta Port Trust officials forced M/s H.C.C. Ltd. Principal Civil Contractor for Haldia, to place order on M/s Bird & Co. cancelling the order on M/s Binny & Co. of Madras the patentees, for Meehanite Plates for Lock Entrance and later accepted the sub-standard, less in weight plates without molybdenum content, as proved in test at Alipore Test House and reported by M/s H.C.C. Ltd. to CPT;

(b) what was the percentage of Molybdenum required in the matter and what was obtained in the sample text made by the Alipore Test House; and

(c) whether any CBI inquiry/investigation has been initiated in this matter and what is their finding, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) M/s. Binny and Co. Madras on whom orders for meehanite castings were placed indicated to M/s. H.C.C. Ltd., that Lloyd's inspection of the castings to be manufactured by them would

involve substantial delay as well as enhancement in price. Calcutta Port Trust advised M/s. H.C.C. to cancel the order on them. M/s. H.C.C. then placed the order on M/s. Bird and Co., who had earlier secured orders for supply of similar castings for the Lock Entrance of Haldia Dock System on the basis of competitive tender.

The specifications in M/s. H.C.C. orders on M/s. Bird and Co., related to the physical properties of the castings. It was, however, noted in the order that Molybdenum will have to be added to obtain the required tensile strength. No percentage was indicated in this note.

Certain difficulties were experienced during the casting and machining of these castings. Calcutta Port Trust referred these to their Consultants who had originally given these specifications. In view of the difficulties in getting the specified grade of meehanite type castings, the Consultants agreed to revision of specifications while ensuring that corrosion aspect and the frictional characteristics were virtually the same. Supplies were got inspected and accepted accordingly. There was no acceptance of "loss in weight" plates.

(b) No specific percentage of Molybdenum was indicated in the order for meehanite plates. The supply of castings did not have Molybdenum content.

(c) No.

Production of Short Length Films

2935. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit the production of shorter films of not more than 10 reels; and

(b) if so, details thereof?