

(c) reasons for stocking it and not shifting it to Paradip port in eastern sector; and

(d) whether MMTC has initiated any talks with the Chinese to Export iron ore; if so, the details of such offer and which other countries have been approached?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) As on 1-7-1980, MMTC was holding iron ore stocks of 24 lakh tonnes at various ports and 23 lakhs tonnes at different Railway sidings. The stocks have been held for periods varying between one to three years.

(b) Due to recession in the world steel industry till last year, there has been lesser yearly off-take by the foreign buyers. Iron ore exports are now showing signs of buoyancy.

(c) Inadequate supply of wagons by the Railway during last two years for movement of iron ore from Barajamda sector to Paradeep has led to stocks accumulating in the Barajamda sector.

(d) During 1978-79 and 1979-80, MMTC exported 54,000 and 65,000 tonnes of iron ore to China. For the future, no contract has so far been finalised. Apart from the traditional buyers of Indian iron ore, MMTC has recently concluded contracts with USSR, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Pakistan, and Malaysia.

Export of finished goods through Mica Trading Corporation

5580. SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: Will the Minister of COM-

MERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mica Trading Corporation was constituted mainly to do processing, manufacturing and finishing of Mica;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Mica Trading Corporation except some export work has not taken up any other work for which it was established;

(c) whether it is a fact that Mica trading Corporation exports Mica only on the orders received from private Mica exporters for the share it received as a result of canalisation and do not obtain export orders of its own; and

(d) did Government consider the desirability of processing and finishing through Mica Trading Corporation and export only finished goods instead of raw-Mica?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. MITCO was set up primarily as a trading organisation to prevent exploitation of weaker sections engaged in mica production and to organise their participation in the export trade, ensure price stability, and to enhance the export of fabricated mica. MITCO has, however, set up a fabrication factory and a dry ground mica powder plant.

(b) No, Sir. MITCO has, in addition to export work, taken up a number of projects to set up mica-based industries.

(c) No, Sir. MITCO also receives direct orders for mica export.

(d) Only processed and fabricated mica is being exported. Crude Mica is not exported.