

as the Fertilizer Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to help the jute industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI K. IURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) It is a fact that synthetic bags are being widely used in the fertilizer sector including the Fertilizer Corporation of India because of consumers preference. However, the Government has been taking corrective measure from time to time to safeguard the interests of jute industry. The measures taken include :

(i) In the present Union budget, excise duty has been imposed on HDPE/PP tapes and import duty on granules has also been marginally increased ;

(ii) Persuading other user Departments to encourage use of more jute bags instead of synthetic substitutes for packing fertilizers and compulsory use of 100 % new jute bags by cement Industry ;

(iii) Providing higher cash compensatory support (CCS) for export of jute goods ;

(iv) Introducing a Scheme of buffer stocking of raw jute so as to ensure availability of jute to mills at reasonable prices ;

(v) Improving the competitiveness of jute goods vis-à-vis synthetic substitutes through fiscal and R&D efforts.

Abid Hussain Committee Recommendations on Trade Policy

627. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have studied all the recommendations made by the Abid Hussain Committee covering the broad spectrum of exports ; and

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations which have been accepted by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the main recommendations which have been accepted by Government are as follows :—

(i) Announcement of the Import-Export policy for a period of 3 years rather than every year.

(ii) Introduction of an Import-Export Pass Book Scheme which is wider in its coverage than the advance licensing scheme.

(iii) Review and removal of a number of items from the canalised list and making the manufacturing firm not the canalising agency....

(iv) A stable regime of Cash Compensatory Support Scheme for 3 years.

The Report contains many broad conceptual recommendations, general recommendations which need elaboration before being implemented and operational recommendation, these have mostly been accepted

Backlog of unemployed persons

628. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that whereas the Seventh Plan document assessed the backlog of unemployed persons at 9.2 million, the live registers of Employment Exchanges of the country show it at 24 millions. ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the disparity ;

(c) what improvements are being effected by the Employment Exchanges in their methods of collecting data about unemployed persons ; and