

(7) The facility of packing credit has been increased from 90 days to 180 days.

Fall in Prices of Cotton

318. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of cotton have crashed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Cotton Corporation of India has failed to purchase cotton in a large quantity;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government of Maharashtra has imposed restriction on the purchase of cotton under the Monopoly Procurement Scheme; and

(d) whether Government propose to give any relief to the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) There has been a steady decline in cotton prices.

(b) No, Sir. The Cotton Corporation has purchased 15.37 lakh bales so far during the current cotton season as compared 6.46 lakh bales during the corresponding period last year. This is the highest purchase made so far by Cotton Corporation of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government agencies are buying cotton from the farmers whenever the cotton prices fall below minimum support prices.

Smashing of Job Racketeers in New Delhi

319. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-
KANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether an organised gang of job racketeers was smashed in New Delhi with the arrest of three racketeers on May 17, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether a hunt for such racketeers operating in other parts of the country has been launched; and

(d) if so, what is the number of persons apprehended in this connection and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) No such gang of job racketeers has been smashed in New Delhi on May 17, 1986. However, a gang of job racketeers was unearthed on 6-5-86 and an offence of cheating and fraud has been registered by Delhi Police. In this case 3 persons have been arrested.

(c) and (d) On receipt of such complaints immediate action is taken by the police to apprehend the culprit. As per information available 683 persons were arrested in 1983 and 1984.

ILO Conference at Geneva

320. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the subjects discussed and decisions taken at the ILO Conference held recently at Geneva; and

(b) the role played by the Indian delegation at the above Conference?