

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Supplies to the engineering industry in Gujarat is made through the Gujarat Small Scale Industries Corporation and Stockyards of SAIL. Against an allocation to the Corporation of about 97,000 tonnes on pro rata basis for April—October period, SAIL has supplied about 92,000 tonnes of materials in the same period. In addition, SAIL has supplied 18,000 tonnes to other Engineering units through its stockyards during this period against an entitlement of 21,000 tonnes. The shortfall in supplies has been due to:

1. transport bottlenecks in Gujarat because of disturbed conditions that prevailed there in the April—June period; and

2. lower production in SAIL plants mainly due to industrial relations problem at the Bokaro Steel Plant in April-May, 1985.

(b) and (c) Gujarat Small Scale Industries Corporation have requested the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, to allow them to permit import of 23,000 tonnes of pig iron. Clearance for this import has been given.

Impact of import liberalisation

1073. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be-pleased to state:

(a) whether overall imports are up by 27.7 per cent after the import liberalisation as reported in the Economic Times of the 28th October, 1985, and

(b) whether similar increase in exports is expected and if not, whether the gap is to be filled by external borrowings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the provisional data available, India's overall imports

have increased by 27.7 per cent during the quarter April—June, 1985 as compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Our exports during the first quarter of 1985-86 have increased by only 0.2 per cent. Efforts are, however, being made to step up our exports in the remaining period of the year so that the export target of Rs. 11736 crores, fixed for the year 1985-86 may be attained. A trade deficit, to the extent it is not met by indivisibles, leads to a higher residual financing gap in balance of payments which could be met by a combination of concessional assistance, commercial borrowings and drawdown of foreign exchange reserves.

NRI investments in India

1074. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Non-Resident Indians during their meeting with him in September, 1985 had suggested the setting up of a high power committee to go into the various problems in regard to NRI investments in India; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A committee has been set up by the RBI to look into the procedural problems being faced by the non-resident Indians.

Issue of Diplomas by the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi

1075. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the

students of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi, who have passed the course in June, 1984 have not been given their Diplomas yet;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) The 3 year diploma examination is conducted by the Board of Technical Education, Delhi Administration, Delhi who in turn pass on the diplomas to the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi for distribution to the successful students. The diplomas for the year 1984 have recently been received by the Institute. These are being distributed.

Purchase price of raw jute

1076. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S. W. DHABE;

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) at what price raw jute was purchased during the last six months (in Bihar and Bengal by the Jute Corporation of India; and

(b) whether it is a fact that during the last year, the price of jute was about Rs. 1000 per quintal while this year it is being sold at about Rs. 200 per quintal, if so, what steps are being taken to safeguard the interests of jute growers and mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) No purchases were made during May to July, 1985 in Bihar and West Bengal. Prices at which purchases were made by Jute Corporation of India during August to November 18, 1985 in Bihar and West Bengal are as under;

<i>(Rs. per Quintal)</i>		
State	Variety	Prices at which purchases made during Aug. to Nov., 18 1985
Bihar	W-5	225.50 — 251
West Bengal	TD-5	235.50 — 273

(b) A statement is attached.

Statement

As a result of four successive short jute crops, the price of raw jute (W-5 Grade) had crossed the level of Rs. 900 per quintal during last jute season 1984-85. However, during the current jute season 1985-86, with the harvesting of a bumper crop or

jute, prices have declined to support level in almost all up-country markets.

2. With a view to protect the interests of jute growers, the following steps have been taken: —

(i) The Jute Corporation of India has been directed to un-