

Supply of Raw Jute by NJMC to Private Jute Mills

110. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD;

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation offered a large quantity of raw jute from its own stock to private jute mill owners who had declared unilateral lock-out on the plea of scarcity of raw jute; and

(b) if so, to what extent this offer was accepted or utilised for opening (the jute mill) by the mill owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH), (a) and (b) The Jute Corporation of India, on behalf of National Jute Manufacturers Corporation, offered for sale three times excess raw jute belonging to NJMC, at the ruling market price to mills in the private sector but there was virtually no response from the mills to those offers.

Demand for supply of raw jute through J.C.I.

111. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Central Trade Union, including the INTUC of West Bengal have demanded that the purchase of raw jute be made exclusively through the Jute Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Some of the Trade-Unions of West Bengal have suggested introduction of a scheme of monopoly pro-

curement of raw jute. Monopoly procurement of raw jute by Jute Corporation of India will imply a lot of operational, administrative and infrastructural commitments from the side of the State Governments. The Jute Corporation of India is presently equipped for procuring about 25 per cent of the total production of raw jute in the country. The Corporation has been made responsible for undertaking price support operation of raw jute whenever necessary, in the interests of jute growers. The Corporation undertakes to purchase the entire quantity of raw jute offered to it at minimum statutory price fixed by the Government has also accepted the liability to subsidise the losses incurred by the Corporation on price support operation.

Reopening of locked-out and closed jute mills in Calcutta

112. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of locked-out jute mills which have been reopened in Calcutta after he had visited Calcutta on the 21st May, 1985; and

(b) what is the number of closed jute mills which have been opened since then?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Bipartite and tripartite conciliation proceedings for reopening of a number of closed jute mills are already in an advanced stage. The lock-out has been lifted in case of one jute mill with effect from 11th July, 1985.

Distribution of imported scrap ships

113. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints of irregularities and favouritism in the distribution of imported scrap ships in the demolition market

against the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC); and

- (b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government have received complaints against Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC) from ship breakers at Alang and Iron and Steel Scrap Association of India alleging favouritism and irregularities in distribution of scrap ships. The allegations relate to allotment of larger vessels to a few breaking units. Allotment of larger sized vessels combinedly to two units was tried towards the end of 84-85 due to limited availability of smaller vessels. However, the practice was abandoned by MSTC due to opposition from the Industry. The guidelines for 85-86 provide for allotment of larger sized vessels to individual ship breaking units with certain conditions with regard to adjustment of tonnage allotted in excess of the target fixed by MSTC for each ship breaking unit.

Criticism by Senior Economists Regarding grant of D.A. to Central Government Employees

114. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER: Will the Minister of FINANCE, be pleased to state;

(a) whether the practice of granting increases in dearness allowance to Central Government employees came in for severe criticism from the Senior Economists; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI J. NARDHAN POOJARI): (a) While individual economists have been reported to have expressed views on the expansionary impact of Dearness Allowance increases, Government is not aware of severe criticism from the Senior Economists as such regarding the practice of granting dearness allowance

(b) The question does not arise.

Cancer Insurance Scheme

115. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

DR. H. P. SHARMA;

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Cancer Insurance Scheme has been inaugurated by the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme; and

(c) what steps have been taken to popularise the scheme and with what response?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI J. NARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Cancer Medical Expenses Policy was inaugurated in Delhi by the Prime Minister on 11th July, 1985.

(b) The salient features of the Scheme are:-

- (1) The eligibility of the proposer to the Scheme is subject to membership of the Indian Cancer Society.
- (2) The insurance premium for the said Medical Expenses Policy is Rs. 100 per annum.
- (3) The total limit for medical expenses cover is Rs. 40,000 in the aggregate.
- (4) Other benefits available to the Insured as a member of the Indian Cancer Society, include (a) one free medical check up at a detection centre in the first year, (b) Check up at concessional rates in the subsequent years, (c) Access to literature on cancer, etc.
- (5) To begin with, the Scheme is restricted to 4 metropolitan since the Indian Cancer Society has no facilities in this behalf elsewhere in India. The Scheme