

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) The Corporation acquired 7 vacuators worth \$ 3.5 lakhs from the owner of the vessel 'Kapeton Marcos' as a part of the contract for lightening of foodgrain from the vessel on payment of nominal cost of \$ 2,000 in non-convertible Indian currency on completion of the lightening operation. The Committee on Public Undertakings has pointed out in its 5th report on C.I.W.T.C. that the Food Corporation of India had in 1974-75 about 200 vacuators in working condition. This Ministry is not aware as to how many of these were lying idle when the vacuators were acquired by Central Inland Water Transport Corporation.

(b) Central Inland Water Transport Corporation have stated that they were not aware that 200 vacuators were lying idle with the Food Corporation of India.

(c) Central Bureau of Investigation has been asked to investigate the matter and report its result.

(d) The report of Central Bureau of Investigation is still awaited.

Working of the regulated markets in jute growing States

362. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the working of the regulated markets set up in jute growing States has been found to be far from satisfactory; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve the functioning of these markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b) The regulated markets scheme comes under the purview of State Governments.

Fair price for cotton growers

363. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the price of raw cotton during the current year as compared to that during the last year; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to ensure fair price to the growers, particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) A Statement is attached. (See Appendix CVI, Annexure No. 32)

(b) To protect the interest of cotton growers, Government have announced minimum support price for kapas of fair average quality of prominent varieties for 1977-78 (September—August) cotton season. However, with a view to help the growers in the disposal of their unsold stocks of cotton, Government have recently instructed Cotton Corporation of India to purchase kapas of fair average quality even at 3 to 5 per cent above minimum support price announced by Government.

Accumulation of cloth with the mills

364. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the estimated quantity of cloth which has accumulated with the textile mills in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): According to provisional data available, the stock of cotton cloth with the textile mills as on 30-6-78, was 288.60 million metres.

Sale of vessel "Galiana" by the C.I.W.T.C.

365. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state: