

**Lack of publicity of the jute procurement programme of the Jute Corporation of India**

368. SHRI VISWANATHA MENON: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute Corporation of India enters the jute market late in the season and does not give adequate publicity to its procurement programmes as a result of which the jute growers are not aware of it well in time; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b) So far the Jute Corporation of India has been carrying on mostly price support operations and has been entering the market only when the prices have shown a downward trend. At this stage the Corporation has been publicising its procurement programme through leaflets brought out in the regional languages and distributed widely.

**Sale of vessels by C.I.W.T.C.**

369. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of water-worthy vessels were disposed of by the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation for their junk value and for that they had to take the assistance of an outside survey firm;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action Government have taken against the officials responsible for the deals; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to lack of advertisement regarding the proposed sale the Corporation failed to get maximum price for these vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) The Committee on Public Undertakings (1977-78) in its Second Report on Central Inland Water Transport Corporation—"Reckless and Fraudulent Sale of Vessels",—has held that a large number of vessels which were in serviceable and water-worthy condition have been sold by the Corporation as scrap at throwaway prices with the help of an outside survey firm. The C.B.I. has been asked to investigate the matter and their report is awaited.

(b) Details of various vessels sold by the Corporation during the period August, 1976 to February, 1977 have been given by the Committee on Public Undertakings under para 14 of its Second Report on "CIWTC—Reckless and Fraudulent Sale of numerous vessels". The action against the officials responsible for the deals can be taken only on receipt of the C.B.I.'s report of investigation mentioned in (a) above.

(c) The Corporation has reported that there was no lack of advertisements regarding sale of vessels. The Committee on Public Undertakings, has however, held that there was lack of advertisement. The C.B.I. has been asked to investigate this matter also along with the investigations referred to at (a) above.

**Survey valuation of vessels**

370. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Norman Stewart, a surveyors firm of Calcutta, which was appointed by the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation to do survey valuation job in 1970, was given bulk valuation work only in November, 1976;

(b) if so, what is the name of the firm which was doing this survey