

(c) what measures are being taken to ensure remunerative prices to the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) Kapas prices during the season ending August 31, 1975 registered a decline as compared to the previous season mainly due to higher production.

(b) 1975-76 cotton season started on 1st September 1975 but the arrivals have been delayed due to late rains. Therefore, it is too early to make any comparative analysis about price behaviour.

(c) Support prices have already been announced by the Government for the principal varieties of cotton, for the 1975-76 season. Market prices are ruling higher than these support prices and no special measures are envisaged.

Raid in the houses of M.Ps. and M.L.As. in Calcutta

*160. SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHURY:

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

DR. RAJAT KUMAR

CHAKRABARTI:

SHRIMATI LEELA

DAMODARA MENON:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any raids were recently conducted on the houses of some Members of Parliament and State Legislatures in Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether any incriminating documents, unaccounted money and valuables were seized during the raids; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Recently the Income-tax authorities

have not conducted any search and seizure operations at the houses of any Member of Parliament and/or State Legislature in Calcutta.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Carpet Weaving Training Centres of All India Handicrafts Board

*161. SHRI N. K. BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Carpet Weaving Training Centres run by the All India Handicrafts Board functioning in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to set up such Centres in the States of Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh with a view to boost the export of carpets; and

(c) if so, by when these Centres are likely to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) At present 16 Carpet Weaving Training Centres are being run by the All India Handicrafts Board. Sanction for opening thirty more such Centres by them during the year 1975-76 has already been issued.

(b) and (c). In the first instance Centres for the training of carpet weavers are being set up in the States where carpet weaving has been traditionally practised and from which the bulk of the exports of carpets is taking place. After this stage has been completed, the opening of such Centres in other States including Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh will be taken up by the All India Handicrafts Board.

Indian handlooms for U.S.A.

*162. SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether the Government of India have conducted any negotiations with the Government of the United States for allowing Indian handloom garments into U.S.A. without any quota restrictions?