

(e) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider their decision to extend subsidy for exports and to take action against textile mills and compel them to reduce the cloth prices ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b) The current prices of cotton textiles in the country are higher than the ruling international prices by 15 to 20%.

(c) Government have no proposal to subsidise cotton textile exports. However, Government have recently agreed to make a contribution at the rate of 5% of the f.o.b. value of exports of cotton textiles from the country (excluding cotton piece-goods and cotton yarn) to cover the cost of internal non-refundable taxes duties etc.

(d) The fall in cotton prices has started only recently, and it is too early for this to be reflected in the prices of cotton textiles. Even then there has been some fall in the prices of cotton textiles Government are watching the situation to see whether any action is required to be taken.

(e) As no subsidy is being paid, this question does not arise.

A.P.C. recommendations on Jute prices

105. SHRI YOGINDRA SHARMA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the minimum price recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission for raw jute is inadequate ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Ministry of Commerce has urged the Agriculture Ministry to fix a higher minimum price for raw jute; and

(d) if so, the detailed results thereof ?

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

(d) Agricultural Prices Commission has submitted its report on price policy for jute for 1975-76 season and the recommendations are under examination of the Government.

Crisis in Jute Industry

106. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO
SHRI B. D. BURMAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jute Industry has been facing a serious crisis;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefore; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) to (c) Due to decline in demand for jute goods in foreign markets brought about by increasing competition from synthetics on the one hand and recession in the economy of those countries on the other, the jute industry in the country is passing through a critical phase. Government are examining the measures that could be taken to afford relief to the industry.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY GIVEN ON THE 18TH MARCH, 1975 TO UNSTARRED QUESTION 1583, REGARDING INTER-STATE TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENTS OF INCOME-TAX, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I think, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee needs to correct the reply because he is not having much time to study things. He is busy in seeing the films—films of Jaipur Palace. Searches have also been covered by films. He is