

I. Annual Report and Accounts (1972-73) of the Haryana Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh and related papers

II. Annual Report and Accounts (1972-73) of the U.P. State Agro-Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow and related papers

SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL : Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy in English and Hindi of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

I. Sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Haryana Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1972-73, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon. ("Placed in Library. See No. LT 8551/74].

II. Sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the U.P. State Agro-Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow for the year 1972-73, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8551/74].

Report (1974) of the Tariff Commission and related Papers

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

I. A copy each of the following papers, under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951 :—

(i) Report (1974) of the Tariff Commission on the Continuance of Protection to the Sericulture Industry.

(ii) Government Resolution No. 13(1)-Tar/74, dated the 23rd November, 1974 (in English and Hindi).

II. Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the Report mentioned at T (i) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8585/74].

Annual Report (1972-73) of the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, for the period from 1st April, 1972 to 31st March, 1973. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8561/74].

**CALLING ATTENTION TO
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

Reported sharp fall in raw jute prices

MR. CHAIRMAN : Calling Attention Motion. Shri Niren Ghosh,

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce to the reported sharp fall in the prices of raw jute resulting in its distress sale affecting jute growers in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Tripura, Meghalaya and Bihar.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some Hon'ble Members have drawn Government's attention to the reported decline in prices in almost all the jute growing States in Eastern India thereby affecting the growers. It has also been alleged that there have been distress sales of raw jute in the jute growing States. A study of the behaviour of prices of raw jute in the open markets particularly in the upcountry markets would show that there has not been such a sharp decline in the prices of raw jute as would have an impact on the growers. I would also like to state that we have no reports of distress sales by the jute growers and on the contrary, except in the case of Tripura, the growers in general have been obtaining prices above the minimum support prices and the levels of the previous year.

It is the constant endeavour of Government to safeguard the grower's interests and ensure that the grower is in a position to get remunerative prices for his produce. Government fully appreciates the difficulties caused to the grower by violent fluctuations in prices of raw jute and our efforts are directed to ensure a reasonable stability in jute prices. Government has, therefore, been keeping a close watch on the trends in prices in all the markets particularly in the remote pockets and I can assure the Hon'ble Members that the machinery available with the Government will be fully utilised for ensuring that the basic objective of safeguarding the interests of the grower is as far as possible taken care of. At the same time, Government has to see to it that the prices do not reach such unconscionable levels as to undermine the competitiveness of our export products and it is in this light that the twin objective of providing a fair price to the grower on the one hand and ensuring the competitiveness in the international markets of our products has to be borne in mind.

On the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission, Government had fixed a minimum support price on a statutory basis, for Assam Bottom variety of raw jute at Rs. 125/- per quintal in the upcountry market. The minimum prices for other varieties were fixed taking into account the varietal differentiation usually