

truction of sewerage pumping stations, and improvement of sewage treatment works.

Price of 'India Pocket Book of Economic Information'

703. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased the price of 'India Pocket Book of Economic Information', and

(b) if so, to what extent and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The cost of the publication of the 'Pocket Book of Economic Information' is fairly high as it is printed on highly expensive Air Mail Tissue Paper and is bound with Plastic Jacket. The from in which the Pocket book is brought out requires the folding of the printed forms by hand, running of machine at slow speed and printing the publication in 6 pt. type instead of 10 pt. type, etc. and these add further to cost. For instance, for the 1971 edition, the cost of printing and stationery including handling charges was as high as Rs. 9.90 per copy. This in fact should have been the sale price for that edition. But, as Government decided to subsidise the cost to the extent of Rs. 6.90 per copy, the sale price was allowed to remain at Rs. 3.00 per copy. During earlier years also the sale was being subsidised heavily to keep the price at Rs. 3.00 per copy.

For the 1972 edition, the latest available for sale, the cost of production per copy of the publication including handling charges increased further to Rs. 12.50 on account of increase in stationery and Jacket costs as well as on account of increase in printing charges. On the other hand, in view of the need for economy

in Government expenditure, it was considered more appropriate not to subsidise the cost of the publication. This explains the rise in the sale price of its 1972 edition.

Lack of 'shipping space for export

704. SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANISHANKER JOSHI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of shipping space and congestion at ports is seriously hampering export of goods;

(b) whether there has been any consequent delay in execution of export orders during the year 1972-73; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken to ease the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) It is true that at times exporters are experiencing difficulty in obtaining timely shipping space due to global shortage of shipping and port congestion.

(b) No case of delay in execution of export orders during 1972-73 only because of lack of shipping space had been brought to the notice of Government.

(c) Government is taking all possible measures from time to time to improve upon and provide the shipping space for exports. Action has also been taken to bring about better coordination between shippers and shipowners with the object of ensuring full utilisation of available shipping space.

Elimination of middlemen from Jute trade

705. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to eliminate middlemen from the jute trade; if so, the steps taken in this direction; and