

consideration of alternatives, and taking a final decision so that they are also fully cognizant of tod committed to the tasks,

(11) It would be necessary to take steps, simultaneously to increase the awareness of the concepts and methodology of science amongst the country, through suitable programmes in the mass media.

(17.) No omnibus-type organisation was necessary for redressing the grievances of scientists and technologists.

HIJACKING OF INDIAN PLANES

*106. SHRI SINDAR MANI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received information that few trained hijackers supposed to be Indian nationals are still on the loose, looking for an opportunity to hijack more Indian Planes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to foil any such attempt by these hijackers to hijack the Indian Planes and also to locate these persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) (a) and (b) No, Sir. How-

ever, all possible security measures have been taken to meet any such threat, and constant vigilance is being maintained by all concerned.

SURVEY OF INDIA'S JUTE EXPORTS BY U.S. AID. EXPORT PROMOTION DIVISION.

*107. SHRI S. KUMARAN :

SHRI KALYAN ROY:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. A.I.D. Export Promotion Division which had carried out a survey of India's jute export has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the findings and recommendations thereof; and

(c) what are the decisions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHIRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Recommendations of USAID Survey team on jute products and Government's views thereon

Recommendations	Government's views
I. Short term strategy for 1969-70	
1. Organise procurement of 6 lakh bales of raw jute and mesta for buffer stock operation in 1969-70.	The availability of raw jute in 1969-70 was not of such a magnitude as to provide for a buffer stock of 6 lakh bales.
2. Set a minimum price of Rs. 45 per md. at the mill end for Assam Bottoms but ensure a minimum price of Rs. 38.5 per md. at the growers level.	On the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission Government fixed the minimum support price for Assam Bottom at Rs. 40 per md.

Recommendations	Government's views
3. Consultation should take place between Government and the industry regarding the export price to be set in order to remain competitive with synthetics; the degree of export duty should be mutually decided by the Government and industry using the competitive considerations.	Noted.
4. Additional excise duties could be imposed on internal consumption of jute goods and relief to be given to the export sector.	Excise duties on jute goods were raised in 1969-70 Budget.
5. With a view to stabilising prices and bringing about more direct contact between mills, shippers and importers, hessians should also be treated similarly to carpet backing and specialities i.e., direct sales from mills to customers. This would mean closure of hessian commodity market but the implications of this action, however, require careful consideration by both the Government and the industry.	Many industrial houses have recently been setting up their own export divisions and as this tendency grows and direct contacts between the mills and the customers get established, the present structure of marketing is likely to lose its significance and the intermediaries would <i>ipso facto</i> lose their importance.
6. In the field of product development immediate priority should be accorded to developing (a) a primary backing suitable for narrow gauge high speed tufting machines; (b) an inexpensive rot proofing treatment for jute; and (c) a cloth suitable in price and design for a versatile 50 lb. bag particularly in the US and Canadian markets.	Some work on these lines is being carried on by the Indian Jute Industries Research Association and the Jute Carpet Backing Council of New York.
7. Enlargement of the quota for import of carpet backing in the U.K and the EEC countries should be pressed for.	Efforts are constantly being made in this direction.
8. Freight costs amounting to 12-17% of total cost should be reduced if possible with strong resistance of further increases.	Government is alive to the problem and has been taking up the matter with the Conference Lines.
9. Claim registration should be set up by the IJMA and all claims should be settled within 2/3 months.	A joint Claims Committee to scrutinise claims and to bring about an amicable settlement has been set up by the Indian Jute Mills Association and the Calcutta Jute Fabrics Shippers Association.
10. Registration of contracts should continue. The system of safeguarding should be through "post registration" checks to ensure that there is no delay in shipping.	Noted.

Recommendations	Government's views
11. A vigorous developmental plan for raw jute to increase both quality and yield from a stabilized acreage.	Plans have been drawn up on these lines.
12. A definite research and development programme should be initiated immediately in the field of product and process development. Each research institute should have a definite task in a centrally coordinated plan.	The Indian Jute Industries Research Association has undertaken various measures in the field of product and process development.
13. A programme for modernization of industry should be adopted.	Modernization of mill machinery had been practically completed at the spinning stage, though there are still many processes that need to be modernized. Government have laid down priorities for modernization and diversification and financial assistance is being extended through the Industrial Finance Corporation.
14 & 15. A Raw Jute Corporation should be set up and be entrusted with the task of ensuring production of raw jute and mesta with high yielding rate and quality of fibre and also of ensuring support prices to the growers by organising direct purchases from the growers. The Corporation may also offer assistance and services to the growers in areas for import application and credit requirements. A buffer stock agency may be set up to operate under the Raw Jute Corporation with Government authority and support to purchase raw jute with the aim of stabilising the price both to the grower and to the industry.	Government proposes to set up a Jute Corporation which will take care of this matter. It is not considered necessary to set up separate agencies for the purpose.
16. A jute bank may be setup to advance (a) easy credit to the agricultural sector to be channelised to the State Governments, (b) the raw jute purchasing organisations, (c) to the manufacturing units for modernisation particularly for carding and (d) to extend banking facilities and service to the exporters of jute goods.	The normal banking and other financing institutions will take care of this. Government do not consider it necessary to set up separate jute bank.
17. A Jute Marketing Board may be set up to organise and assist the market research activities and develop programmes of export promotion. The major functions of the	The functions of the proposed Jute Corporation will include marketing and export promotion and it is not considered necessary to set up separate Jute Marketing Board.

Recommendations	Government's views
Marketing Board should cover (i) marketing and research (ii) product research and development, (iii) market analysis, (iv) market plans and pricing policy, (v) market control, (vi) marketing procedures and (vii) acting as export house.	
18. The State Trading Corporation should handle the export trade in sacking which requires special consideration. The S.T.C. should pay particular attention to (a) the USSR and East European market (b) the UAR and Sudan (c) other countries where centralisation of purchasing of jute products is being attempted.	The State Trading Corporation has already been undertaking this operation for some time.
19. A Jute Board may be constituted as an apex organisation for overall coordination and control of all aspects of jute and jute goods. In particular the Jute Board should have operational control, over the credit available through the Jute bank, procurement and utilisation of imports through Raw Jute Corporation, in the purchase of raw jute at the grower level and through the buffer stock agency. It should also provide inter firm comparison of all manufacturing costs etc. and maintain control on marketing aspects from the Jute Marketing Board.	Government do not consider this necessary at this stage.
20 & 21. There exists an urgent need to evolve a strategy for holding off the threat from synthetics based on (a) offering price stability and parity, (b) assurance of supply and (c) intensified research and development activities to improve the characteristic of jute manufactures. India's pricing strategy should be structured to meet the threat of synthetics and other substitutes rather than attempt to win market share from Pakistan through across the board price reduction.	The pricing strategy for export of jute goods will have to be decided from time to time depending on various factors such as competition from Pakistan, competition from synthetics etc.

मध्य प्रदेश में हलाली बांध परियोजना

* 108. श्री निरंजन बर्मा : क्या सिंचाई तथा विद्युत् मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश की हलाली बांध परियोजना को पंचवर्षीय योजना में शामिल किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर अब तक कितनी रकम खर्च हो चुकी है;