

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the step Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI M. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c) Raw jute prices had remained at abnormally high levels during the beginning of the current jute season. With larger arrivals of fibre in the market the prices have tended to decline to normal levels. Bihar jute and mesta prices have also followed this trend. The current prices, however, are much higher than the prices during the corresponding periods of 1963-64 and 1964-65 seasons, and are also higher than the minimum support prices fixed by Government in consultation with the Agricultural Prices Commission. Purchase operations would also be undertaken through the State Trading Corporation to ensure that prices are maintained at or above the minimum support level if and when required

REPRESENTATION FROM ENGINEERS OF BHDEL, HARDWAR AGAINST DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT

838. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation from the engineers, particularly Russian trained, working in Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd, Hardwar regarding unfair and discriminatory treatment meted to them in matters of promotions; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI D. SANJIVAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The points raised in the representations were looked into by the Chairman, Bharat Heavy Electricals and it was found that the grievances were not justified.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT LOSS OF FOREIGN SACKING MARKETS TO PAKISTAN

839. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the complaints by the Indian Jute Mills Association to the effect that Government's inaction is responsible for the loss of foreign sacking markets to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI M. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) While it is a fact that exports of jute goods to various destinations from June to September, 1966 have been lower than the total exports of corresponding period during 1965, there has been increased exports in certain items to some destinations and reduced exports in others to certain other destinations. In fact, the decline in exports had started even before devaluation. The trend is, therefore, a mixed one and is due to a variety of causes. For example, the shortage of raw jute and consequent high prices during this period was a major contributing factor. There was also some temporary disturbance in the established pattern of trade as detailed readjustments had to be made to meet the changed situation. The position has slightly improved in October, 1966.

Government has been continuously keeping the position under review and appropriate action has been and will continue to be, taken.

JUTE PRICES

840. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the sudden fall in jute prices when it is reported that the supply position falls short of the demand; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to check further fall in jute prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI M. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Raw jute prices had remained at abnormally high levels during the beginning of the current jute season. With larger arrivals of fibre in the market, the prices have tended to decline to normal levels. Even the current prices (Rs. 139.32 per quintal for Assam Bottom variety delivered at Calcutta) are, however, much higher than the minimum support price (Rs. 93.77 per quintal fixed by the Government in consultation with the Agricultural Prices Commission, and there is no likelihood of prices declining to uneconomic levels. Purchase operations would also be undertaken through the State Trading Corporation to ensure that prices are maintained at or above the minimum support level, if and when required.

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

841. SHRI NEKI RAM:
SHRI SHIVA NAND
RAMAUL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what concessions and facilities Government have provided to Small Scale and Cottage Industries under the policy of achieving the objective of self-reliance through these units by producing more materials for Civil and Defence needs as pronounced by the Prime Minister recently;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint/representation to the effect that these small units are not being given the benefit of such concessions etc., by the authorities concerned properly and adequately;

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take to set the matter right; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA): (a) The following types of assistances are provided to small scale industries under the Small Scale Industries Development Programme:

- (i) Financial assistance;
- (ii) Hire Purchase of Machinery;
- (iii) Participation in Government Stores Purchase Programme;
- (iv) Technical Assistance;
- (v) Allotment of space in industrial estates;
- (vi) Recognition as ancillaries;
- (vii) Subsidy on supply of power;
- (viii) Allotment of raw materials.

To facilitate increase in production of materials for civil and defence needs by the small scale sector, Government have recently announced a Liberalised Import Policy. The Department of Defence Supply has organised exhibitions of parts, components etc. required by the Defence, which could be taken up in the small scale sector. Small Industrialists interested in a particular item are put in touch with the Government Purchasing Departments for direct negotiations regarding terms of supply etc. Small industrialists obtaining these contracts are being provided other facilities by the Small Industries Service Institutes and the National Small Industries Corporation in executing these contracts. The Credit Guarantee Scheme No. 2 implemented by the N. S. I. C. and the State Bank of India is also extended to these contracts.

(b) to (d) Copy of a representation from a Firm addressed to the Director General of Supplies and Disposals has been received in the Ministry of Industry very recently and this is being examined in consultation with the D.G.S.&D.