

**EXEMPTION OF DUTY GRANTED TO
SMALLER STRAWBOARD UNITS**

*384. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please[^] to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smaller units producing strawboard have been granted special exemption of Duty;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for giving such an exemption; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend similar exemption to small sugar factories?

THE MINISTER M- PLANNING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Prior to 1-3-1964, slab exemptions with preferential rates of duty were available only to smaller units producing straw-board. However, slab exemptions have been now extended to all manufacturers irrespective of their output on equitable considerations.

(b) The rate of duty on 'Straw Boards' was raised from 15 r.P. per Kg. to 35 nP. per Kg. in 1963, bringing the 'Straw Board' fully on par with—'Mill Boards' and 'Grey Boards'. Simultaneously liberalised slab exemption[^] with preferential rates as enjoyed by Mill-Boards were prescribed to help the smaller units, manufacturing strawboards also. However, as this gave excessive benefits to marginal producers, the scheme has had to be further revised.

(c) No, Sir.

**STUDY GROUP FOR ENGINEERING
INDUSTRIES**

*392. SHRI R. N. KAKATI: Will the Minister of INTERNATIONAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the final report of the Study

Group set up to undertake a detailed study of the export potentialities of various engineering industries; and

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is expected shortly.

**FLOOR PRICE OF COTTON IN MAHA-
RASHTRA**

*393. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have submitted any representation to the Central Government urging to raise floor prices of cotton in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) No, Sir; not recently.

(b) Does not arise.

LOWER JHELM SCHEMB

*398. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kashmir Government have sent any scheme for the utilisation of lower Jhelum in the Kashmir valley; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) and (b) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House.