

Montana Company introduced in the market Tinta-Montana Special ball for 50 paise each? And may I know whether the investigators enquired about the Montana balls and whether they approached the table tennis players and table tennis clubs or table tennis associations?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: So far as this Ministry is concerned, it only licenses the import of certain things. What they manufacture and at what price they market the product, it is for the other Ministry to answer.

SHRI T. N. SINGH: I will enquire into the complaint made by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know from the hon. Deputy Minister for Commerce whether he made any enquiries from the sister industries Ministry after the receipt of this question and if so with what result?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: No such enquiry was made with the other Ministry.

♦310. [Transferred to the 30th November, 1965.]

EXPORT OF JUTE GOODS

SHRI P. ABRAHAM

SHRI DUGHAL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the export of Jute goods from India; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to achieve this object?

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri U. S. Dugal.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) and (b) Government's objective is to continuously increase export of jute goods. A statement showing the steps taken in this behalf is laid on the Table of the House. From Rs. 140 crores worth export of jute goods in 1960-61, the export of jute goods are running at the rate of Rs. 180 crores per year in 1965-66.

STATEMENT

The following steps have been taken to expand the export of jute goods:

(a) Continuous efforts are being made to increase the production of raw jute and improve the quality of raw jute by adopting improved methods of cultivation;

(b) A vigorous research programme to find out new and diverse uses for jute goods is being formulated to provide greater outlet for jute;

(c) Indian Jute Mills Association is currently undertaking a research programme in the U.S.A. in collaboration with a firm of industrial consultants (Fabrics Research Laboratories) with the main object of developing new use of jute goods. The work is progressing satisfactorily.

(d) A committee for Voluntary Registration of jute goods export contracts has been functioning under the Chairmanship of the Jute Commissioner since January, 1963.

(e) Compulsory Pre-shipment Inspection and Quality Control under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 have been introduced with effect from 1st January, 1965.

(f) With the introduction of Tax Credit Scheme exporters of jute goods will now qualify for tax credit certi-

ificates to the extent of 2% on all exports made after 28th February, 1965. The tax credit has been raised from 2% to 5% in the case of carpet backing cloth exports with effect from 1st October, 1965.

(g) Long term trade Agreement with specific provision for export of jute goods have been negotiated with the USSR and the East European countries.

(h) Delegations are being sponsored from time to time to visit the foreign markets. In 1964 two Jute Delegations were sponsored one by the Calcutta Jute Fabrics Shippers Association to North and West Africa and another— a composite jute delegation consisting of representatives of trade, industry and Government to USA/Canada. In March, 1965 a composite Jute Delegation visited Australia and New Zealand and another delegation is planned to visit the Latin American countries in the near future.

(i) A decision has been taken to set up permanent Exhibition of Jute products in Calcutta.

श्री रामकुमार भुवालका : क्या माननीय मन्त्री जी बतलायेंगे कि फैब्रिकेटेड जूट का जो इम्पोर्ट होता है उसकी क्वालिटी पहले से अच्छी हुई या नहीं ?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Strenuous efforts are made to improve the quality and the ICMF, IJMA and IJMARI—Research Institutes—are also looking into this question. I may also submit for the information of the House that quality control has been introduced and is being enforced.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Is it a fact, Madam, that there is an increase in the demand for Indian jute products from rupee area countries and if so is the Government taking any steps to increase exports of these products to the rupee area countries?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: There is an increasing demand in the rupee area countries but then we have to look to the proper distribution of these goods to other areas also. We cannot give up any particular area in favour of any other area. We have got to maintain the markets all over the world.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: The hon. Minister stated that a statement was being laid on the Table. Unfortunately we did not have the statement. But he said that the quality was being improved. May I know what are the other steps that are being taken and whether any subsidy is being paid, as in the case of sugar, for increasing exports of jute products also?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: I am very glad to inform the House that this is the one industry which does not get any subsidy; yet it has done remarkably well. It has exceeded all targets and the export of jute is mounting up.

SETTING UP OF PUBLIC SECTOR INDUSTRIES IN ASSAM

•312. SHRI U. S. DUGAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to set up big industrial units in the public sector in Assam; and

(b) if so, what industries will be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA): (a) and (b). The question presumably relates to the Fourth Plan period. The Public Sector programme for the Fourth Plan is still to be finalised. It is, therefore, not possible to give any definite indications on the public sector projects that are likely to be set up in Assam during the Fourth Plan period.