

Export of Jute Goods

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- *14. { Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Daji:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intend to set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Bam to scrutinize and register all foreign sale contracts for jute goods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof.

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). There is a proposal to constitute a Committee to undertake registration of export contracts relating to jute goods. The details are being examined.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: May I know by what time the details will be examined?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The examination is going on. We shall be perhaps able to set up the committee as soon as possible.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Does the proposal envisage that if this committee is set up, then the actual physical verification of export consignments by the customs will not be required any longer?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No. This is not a substitution for pre-shipment inspection or bills of lading. This is more to register the contracts as soon as they are entered into, so that no under-invoicing is possible thereafter.

Shri P. C. Borooah: What will be the *modus operandi* of this committee to stop this leakage of foreign exchange?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The mode broadly will be that within 24 hours of a contract being entered into between the shipper here and the importer in the United States or anywhere

in the world, it will be registered, and once that price is registered, there could be no alteration at the time of bill of lading.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know what happened to the goods seized by the customs on account of low invoicing?

Shri Manubhai Shah: In two cases we found that the seizure was not justified, and our apprehensions were unfounded. So, the goods were returned. One case is under examination.

Jails in Goa

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- *15. { Shri Daji:
Shri Mohammad Elias:
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a memorandum was submitted to Government by a labour leader requesting jail reform in Goa;

(b) whether he has suggested the appointment of a commission to investigate prison conditions in Goa; and

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The Goa Administration have carefully considered the memorandum submitted by Shri George Vaz, President of the Goa Mining Labour Welfare Union and are satisfied that there is not sufficient justification for the appointment of a special Commission to look into conditions in jails in the Union Territory. The Administration are taking action to improve conditions in all jails in Goa, Daman and Diu.