

is supposed to lessen our demand in the market is kept up, and why is it that the Government have not examined this question in spite of the fact that we have repeatedly urged in this House that the jute produced in Bihar and other States are at very much above Rs. 15?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** There are two different aspects: that the prices of sackings have sagged and also that the off-take of sackings in the world market has not shown any sufficient rise. That is because of the keen competition from Pakistan where all the export of jute goods get 20 per cent rebate, that is, import entitlement for currency retention, as it is called. We do not seek to follow the practice, because otherwise we are giving assistance to the jute industry in diverse ways. Regarding internal price of jute, there is a separate question coming up. We are taking all steps to see that what we have announced on the floor of the House, that the Assam bottom shall be maintained at Rs. 30 f.o.r. Calcutta, is being followed.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** The hon. Minister has said that there is competition from Pakistan. May I know whether the Government will think of diverting the items from jute sackings to some other things which are easily saleable in the world market?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** That is our aim. But we do not want to give up sackings because that is the staple bread and butter line of the industry. We are trying to modernise the jute industry and see that the carpet cloth and various other products that can be made from jute earn larger foreign exchange per unit of raw material.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Apart from the question of export of sackings, has the Government made any estimate of the probable increase in the internal requirements of sackings which will develop now as a result of defence requirements in the present emergency?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The requirements of sackings in the internal mar-

ket have looked up considerably during the last five years because of the increase in the requirements of food-grains, fertilisers, cement and various other things.

As far as the question of defence requirements is concerned, there is a misunderstanding. The sand bags are made from hessian and not from jute sacking and, therefore, it will certainly assist the hessian off-take and not sackings.

**श्री क० ना० तिवारी :** सैकिंग का दाम इंडिया में १६५ रुपये सैकड़ा है और नार्थ बिहार का ज्यूट १२ रुपये से १६ रुपये तक विक रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ इसकी क्या वजह है ?

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** ३० रुपये तो असम बाटम का है और बिबली जो है, उसका है। बिहार का मैस्टा थोड़ा सा इनफीरियर है, उसकी रिवाइज्ड प्राइमिम दी गई है। स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन में हमने कोम्प्रोप्रिटिव फैड्रेशन की मार्फत काम शुरू किया है। हम चाहते हैं कि जो कोम्प्रोप्रिटिव मूवमेंट है वह और भी स्ट्रॉंग हो जाये ताकि काश्तकारों को भी सही दाम मिल सकें।

#### Purchase of Jute

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*229. {	Shri Indrajit Gupta:
	Shri Tridib Kumar
	Chaudhury:
	Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
	Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:

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

(a) what concrete steps have been taken so far towards enabling co-operative Societies and Marketing Unions of Cultivators to operate on the jute market in the jute-growing North Bihar districts, West Bengal and Assam to implement the price support policy in regard to jute;

(b) whether the State Trading Corporation will also operate on the jute market at the same time independently; and

(c) whether apart from Cooperative Organisations of Cultivators and State Trading Corporation, the setting up of any third agency dealing solely with Jute and specialising in open market operations in regard to jute has been under contemplation?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) to (c). Government have decided that the State Trading Corporation of India should purchase raw jute through Co-operative Societies. In this matter, the Corporation will generally operate and started operating through the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd. which is the Central body representing the Co-operative Societies, jute growers and other agricultural products. Purchase operations have already commenced. This is in addition to the operations of the existing Jute Buffer Stock Association.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** May I know whether this raw jute which is to be purchased by the S.T.C. is for export purposes only and, if so, at what price is it going to be purchased from the co-operative societies?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As the hon. House is aware, the exports of raw jute are very nominal. As a matter of fact, we do not export raw jute at all practically. This is for maintenance or stabilisation of the price and creation of a buffer stock so that over a long term this very high export earning industry is maintained on an even keel.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** In view of the fact that there has been a bumper crop of raw jute for the second year in succession, may I know what the price is which the Government has decided upon as being the minimum price which should be obtainable to the actual cultivator, not in the Calcutta market but to the actual cultivator?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As the House is aware, Rs. 30/- is the price for Assam Bottom delivered f.o.r. Calcutta

that the Government wants to maintain as an operational price. As a result of all these efforts the price till yesterday was Rs. 29/- for Assam Bottoms. We are trying our best to see that the price looks up to Rs. 30/- and the cultivator will get the proportionately derived prices.

**Dr. Ranen Sen:** Will all these purchases by the co-operative societies or the marketing unions be made by the primary units at the village level or at the city level?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** At the village level the co-operative societies will procure and make the payment at the derived price f.o.r. deducting the railway freight and various other incidental charges in order that the Assam Bottoms are maintained at Calcutta at Rs. 30/- a maund.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** The hon. Minister has said just now that the Assam Bottoms are selling at Rs. 29/- in Calcutta while two hon. Members from Bihar have said that the price in Bihar is Rs. 12/- to Rs. 15/-. What should be the difference between the Bihar jute and the Assam Bottoms and what efforts have Government made to buy jute the major portion of which was sold at a lower price during September-October?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We have started these operations a long time back and, as I said, this was supplemental to the efforts of the Jute Buffer Stock Association. As the House is aware, the jute mills have up-to-date got almost five months' stock of raw material purchased by them. The difference in the price, as the hon. Member says, in Bihar itself I would not like to contrast with the figures of hon. Members, but they are not quite true in the sense of being actual in fact. There is a difference in price and it is only when the co-operative movement and organisation is a bit more well spread that 100 per cent benefit of the support price will go to the growers. Therefore, it is my request that the hon. Members of the House will co-operate fully to strengthen the eastern region of India, that is,

Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the co-operative movement of growers to give this jute to the State Trading Corporation.

**श्री क० ना० तिवारी** आनरेबल मिनिस्टर ने कहा है कि इतना प्राइस में डिफेंस नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ किन्ता डिफेंस है बिहार ज्यूट में और असम ज्यूट में।

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** असम ज्यूट में कोई साढ़े पांच रुपये का फर्क है और वह क्वालिटी पर है। लेकिन प्वाइंट यह है कि काश्तकार को क्या मिलता है। यह हमारी दिली इच्छा है कि काश्तकार को इसी बेसिस पर मिले। इसके लिये यह आवश्यक है कि देश के अन्दर सहकारिता की भावना बढ़े और अधिक में अधिक सहकारी समितियाँ बनें।

**Shri Ranga:** May I take it that there is competition between these co-operative trading societies and the private traders? If there is no such competition, what precautions are being taken by Government to see that the primary co-operative marketing societies do pay to the jute producers the actual price that is being received by them from the State Trading Corporation?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The boot is on the other leg. The co-operators are paying the correct price to the growers as derived from the Assam Bottoms, that is, Rs. 30/- f.o.r. Calcutta. It is the private traders who try to do it down, as the arrangements are not yet strong enough, and reduce the price to the cultivators. It is that particular aspect of the problem which we are tackling.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** How far will Government's anxiety for paying to the growers be relieved and what percentage of this purchase will be through the co-operative societies compared to the individual purchasers who devour most of these things?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The idea of a price support is not to purchase every

bale lock, stock and barrel, but it is to enter the market with a view to see that the farmer gets the price which the House has approved of here. Therefore, we are strengthening the co-operative movement and I can assure the House that between the Jute Buffer Stock Association and the State Trading Corporation we shall try to purchase as much as is necessary to support the price.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Hem Raj.

**Shri Hem Raj:** No. 230.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** Question No. 236 also may be taken with this.

**Mr. Speaker:** No. 236 also may be answered.

### Green Tea

\*230. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the stocks of Green Tea lying unsold in the Amritsar Market and with the Tea planters in the Kangra District;

(b) whether it is a fact that this accumulation has lowered the prices; and

(c) the steps that Government have taken to transport these stocks to the Afghanistan market?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) It was reported that at the end of July 1962 there was a stock of about 3.7 lakhs kg. of tea meant for export to Afghanistan.

(b) While there has been some drop in prices this year compared to last year for this variety of tea, this could not solely be attributed to accumulation of stocks.

(c) Additional flights had been provided for air lifting tea to Afghanistan and the Board has been advising traders to use the sea route via Khorramshar.