

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi):** (a) Action is being taken by all the steel plants to implement the recommendations of the Wage Board for Iron and Steel with regard to interim relief.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Is the Government aware of the fact that Tata Iron and Steel Company has told its workers that this interim relief will not be implemented unless the Government assures them that the retention price of steel will be further increased?

**The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):** Yes, Sir; that matter has been referred to the Government and we have answered the question in the affirmative. It will be provided in the retention price.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Is the Government also aware of the fact that the Indian Iron and Steel Company authorities have been telling their workers that the increase which has been recommended will be given only to the lowest paid category of workers and not to the higher categories?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** No. They have raised a doubt as according to the terms of the award a minimum wage of Rs. 95 is recommended. The matter whether there should be a uniform increase of Rs. 21 in regard to every category of employees has been referred to the wage board.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether the interim report has been implemented in all the public sector projects—Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Yes, Sir; they have been implemented.

### Low Price of Jute

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\*501. { **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**  
**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** .  
**Shri Indrajit Gupta:**

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

(a) whether complaints have been received by Government about the low price of raw jute at which the jute-growers in Orissa, Bihar and other parts of the country had to sell their jute;

(b) whether it is a fact that jute marketing societies formed to purchase jute are not able to assure minimum price to the cultivators; and

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration by which the growers could be assured of a minimum selling price of Rs. 30 per maund of raw jute at their local sale-centres?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a)

to (c). Government had given an assurance that the operational price of Rs. 30 per maund based on Assam Bottom quality of raw jute delivered at Calcutta will be maintained. Prices for different varieties of raw jute both superior and inferior are derived on the basis of Assam Bottom price at Calcutta. Better varieties of jute fetched a very good premium during the current season. In regard to the inferior varieties grown in certain States, the derived market price was round-about the operational minimum price of Rs. 30 per maund for Assam Bottom quality till the end of October, 1962. Subsequently, as a result of emergency conditions, in some of the jute growing areas, there were distress sellings and prices fell steeply. Government took immediate measures to arrest the decline in prices as indicated below:—

- (1) A Statutory Order was issued under the Jute (Licensing and Control) Order 1962 making it obligatory on all

jute mills to effect purchases of a certain minimum quantity of jute every month and making it also obligatory on them to hold a certain minimum level of stock at the end of each month. Quotas of the order of 11·51 lakh bales, 7 lakh bales and 7·20 lakh bales were allocated in November and December, 1962 and January, 1963, respectively. The level of minimum stocks prescribed for the industry at the end of February, 1963, would be of the order of 22 weeks' consumption.

The jute mills were asked to buy as much as possible from areas where there were distress sellings. In terms of this Order, the jute mills purchased 11·44 lakh bales in November and 7·54 lakh bales in December, 1962. The total purchases made by jute mills during the current season are of the order of 42·85 lakh bales up to the end of December, 1962, in addition to a carryover of about 26 lakh bales from the previous season. Inclusive of the quota for January, 1963 the mills purchases would account for nearly 50 lakh bales.

- (2) The Jute Buffer Stock Association purchased a quantity of 4 lakh bales during the current season over and above their existing stock of 2·5 lakh bales held from the previous season and 1 lakh bales of imported cuttings making a total of 7·25 lakh bales.
- (3) The State Trading Corporation was asked to buy raw jute from the growers and growers co-operatives through the agency of the National Agricultural Marketing Federation, at the operational price of Rs. 30 per maund for Assam Bottom quality at Calcutta. Purchases through the National Agricultural

Marketing Federation are of the order of 60,000 bales. With a view to accelerate the tempo of purchases, the State Trading Corporation has agreed to give an advance to the National Agricultural Marketing Federation in respect of purchases made in outstations and stored there instead of being brought to Calcutta.

- (4) The State Governments were requested to make direct purchases of raw jute through their own agencies and in order to assist them, the State Trading Corporation has placed at the disposal of the various State Governments, a total sum of Rs. 155 lakhs to be utilised as an advance—Assam has been given an advance of Rs. 50 lakhs, Bengal and Bihar Rs. 40 lakhs each and Orissa Rs. 20 lakhs and Tripura Rs. 5 lakhs.
- (5) Apart from co-operatives and State agencies, the State Trading Corporation has already been authorised to utilise the services of existing reliable trade agencies, bales and pressers who will do buying operations on State Trading Corporation's behalf
- (6) A quota of 2 lakh bales was released for export. Export sales amounting to about 54,000 bales have already been concluded.

2. The current crop is estimated at 70 lakh bales and due to the higher prices ruling here, compared to the adjacent areas, the total availability during the current season is expected to be of the order of 75 to 80 lakh bales. Purchases made so far account for 55 lakh bales leaving a balance of about 20 to 25 lakh bales to be acquired during the next 5 months of the current season. All the jute mills are

working to full capacity subject to availability of power and at the rate of current purchases both by mills as well as by the various other agencies which works out to 7 to 8 lakh bales per month, the balance of the crop lying with the growers and the trade is likely to be acquired within a period of three months. There is therefore, no ground for anxiety. The decline in prices has been arrested and they are now looking up and with further purchases in the ensuing months, prices are likely to go up. This should be considered satisfactory considering the fact that the statutory minimum prices fixed by Pakistan for a quality comparable to Assam Bottom for the current season is very much lower.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** क्या यह सही है कि पिछली दफा एमरजेंसी के वक्त में असम में ज्यूट का दाम दस रुपये मन हो गया, बिहार में बारह रुपये मन हो गया और बंगाल में भी कम हो गया और इस हालत को देखते हुए प्रधान मंत्री जी ने मदद की थी, ज्यूट प्रोड्रज को थोड़ी सी राहत पहुंचायी थी? अगर यह सही है तो उस समय क्या सरकार वाजिब नहीं समझती थी कि ज्यूट के दाम तीन रुपये मन कायम रहते?

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** प्रधान मंत्री जी ने हुकम निकाला और हम लोगों ने भी कोशिश की। उसकी वजह से ही तो दाम बढ़ गए।

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** जिस समय असम में, बिहार में ज्यूट के दाम कम हो गए तो क्यों सरकार ने कोई इस तरह की कार्रवाई नहीं की कि जिन व्यापारियों ने दस रुपये मन ज्यूट खरीदा और किसानों को बीस रुपया मन घाटा पहुंचा उनको भी कुछ कम्पेंसेट किया जाता?

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** जो कीमत के धांफड़े माननीय सदस्य ने दिये हैं, व सही नहीं हैं लेकिन मैं उस कंट्रोवर्सी में पड़ना नहीं चाहता, मैंने तो स्टेटमेंट सदन के सामने रखा है।

उसको अगर आप पढ़ेंगे जो आपको पता चलेगा कि मार्किटिंग प्रापरेसेंस ने ६० लाख गांठें अब तक खरीद ली हैं और सिर्फ बीस लाख गांठें बाजार में हैं।

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Has the Government's attention been drawn to the fact that their own Jute Commissioner, Mr. Janeja, has stated on the 27th of December, in a statement in Calcutta that these marketing operations to which the hon. Minister referred, have come too late. He said he is not sure to what extent the present measures would benefit the actual growers as they might have little stock with them. What is the reaction of the Government to this statement?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The point was that we were passing through such a great crisis; particularly when transport had been held up in Bihar in view of the emergency and the Pakistani crew strike in Assam. Therefore, it was an actual statement of fact that in spite of the best efforts, due to circumstances beyond the control of anybody, the prices had sagged. But the recent operations that have taken place have absorbed more than 75 per cent of the crop.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** May I know what the Government proposes to do to help those growers whose jute was sold at ridiculously low prices? May I know if there is any scheme?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** There is no scheme.

**श्री रा० जि० पाण्डेय :** क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि पाकिस्तान में ज्यूट का पर एकड़ यील्ड अधिक है और उसका रेट भी कम है और क्वालिटी भी अच्छी है?

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** वहां एरिया कम है, फ़ाप हमसे बड़ा है और रेट हमसे बड़ा है। हम कौशिस करते हैं कि प्रोड्रर को ज्यादा से ज्यादा फायदा पहुंचायें। मार्किटिंग प्रापरेसेंस में करोड़ों रुपया लग गया है। वहां का प्रोडक्शन हम से अधिक है। वहां

पीने चार मन फी एकड़ है और यहाँ पर सबा दो मन निकलता है। इन सब बातों को देखते हुए लो मार्किटिंग का काम किया जा रहा है।

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बात गलत है कि यहाँ सबा दो मन निकलता है, यहाँ दम मन निकलता है .. (Interruption).

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** मैं यह कह रहा था .....

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** आर्डर, आर्डर, मैंने उम सवाल की इजाजत नहीं दी है।

**Shri P. G. Sen:** May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that even when the minimum price has been fixed at Rs. 30 per maund of jute, the mills are purchasing at the rate of Rs. 27 and taking a receipt for Rs. 30 a maund, and that it is reported that eight lakh to ten lakh maunds of Pakistani jute have been smuggled into this country, and that these are the reasons for the downfall of the prices?

**Mr. Speaker:** All this information has been given.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It has been given in the statement.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know what was the difficulty experienced by the jute marketing society in fixing minimum prices for the growers?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The co-operatives have really not grown to the dimension that is required to handle a crop worth about Rs. 150 crores. Therefore, we have been making earnest requests here in this House as well as to the State Governments that those hon. Members who are really interested in this co-operative movement should try to see that the co-operatives of growers come up. That is the only solution to this problem.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Is it a fact that the operations began too late with the result that already the jute was in the hands of middlemen,

and, if so, what was the cause of the delay, and how does it benefit the actual grower?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** That is not true. The operations began much earlier than the crop came in the market. The emergency intervened, much to the distress of all.

#### Accumulation of Textiles in Kanpur Mills

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}	Shri Bade:
*502. }	Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
	Shri Mantri:
	Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that more than a lakh bales of textiles are lying unsold in Kanpur Mills of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to accumulation of stock production has been reduced in some Mills;

(c) whether this crisis is due to the comparative high prices of textiles produced in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) whether it is a fact that people are disinclined to buy these textiles because these are not available at the printed prices and sellers charge more than the printed price?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) No, Sir. The total stocks, sold and unsold are estimated at 36,700 bales at the end of December, 1962.

(b) There has been no reduction in production.

(c) Does not arise

(d) No, Sir. The slackness in sales has been due to the general effect of recent situation in the country and particularly in the Eastern region of the country.

**Shri Bade:** Is it a fact that the accumulation of stocks is due to the