

(e) The Eighth Plan is yet to be finalised.

**SHRIM.V.V.S. MURTHY:** In the demurrage that has been collected during the past three years by Visakhapatnam Port, there has been an increase of 200 per cent in 1990-91 as compared to the previous years 1989-90. The reason mostly given is the non-availability of the berths in the Visakhapatnam Port. May I know from the Minister whether the construction of additional berths have taken place now or whether it will be included in the Eighth Plan? What are the specific berths that are being contemplated in the Eighth Plan? The main reason for collection of huge demurrage is the lack of basic amenities like berthing and equipment facilities to vessels.

[Translation]

May I expect the Minister to reply to this also.

**SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, all points have been made clear in the reply given by me. As far the demurrage relating to 1989-90 and 1990-91 is concerned, it has already been mentioned in the reply. As the Visakhapatnam Port is self-sufficient, it has no need of any assistance from the Government of India. The scheme which is being launched, has been figured in the main reply. Apart from this, if hon. Member has some suggestion, I shall look into it.

[English]

**SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:** What are the reasons for collection of demurrage at higher levels of 200 per cent? In 1989-90, the demurrage collected was of the order of Rs. 38.59 lakhs whereas in 1990-91, it was Rs. 101.94 lakhs. Is it a fact that it is due to non-availability of berthing and equipment facilities?

[Translation]

**SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it depends upon the ships as to what are

their problems. It does not include revised rates, and the earlier rate of demurrage is being charged. I have no separate reply for the figures increased, if any. If the hon. Members would require, I shall send the information in writing separately.

[English]

**SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:** My second supplementary has not been answered.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Your second supplementary is over.

**SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH YADAV:** It is very clear that due to lack of handling facilities, heavy damages were incurred. In view of lack of facilities to tackle the heavy loading and unloading at Visakhapatnam Port and in view of the abundant gas and oil that was found in the Krishna-Godavari Delta, will the hon. Minister consider to develop the satellite ports at Machhlipatnam, which is an old port, and at Kakinada to hasten the heavy traffic at Visakhapatnam Port?

[Translation]

**SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the suggestion given by the hon. Member will be considered sympathetically.

[English]

#### Privatisation of Nationalised Jute Mills

\*30 **SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the nationalised Jute mills under the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd.

(b) if so, the details in this regards;

(c) whether the Government propose to run these mills properly in consultation with the workers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) and (b). In view of the heavy losses in National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd., (NJMC) and the resource constraints faced by the Government, various alternatives for its revitalisation are under consideration.

(c) and (d). The workers of the Jute Mills are being consulted by NJMC management in the day today running of the mills.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: On the question of: What steps are they proposing towards privatisation, they have agreed to that. But they have not discussed it with the trade union. But they have said that is not necessary. Therefore, there is a calculated plan to destroy these nationalised jute mills in connivance with the private jute owners and jute barons in West Bengal. The NJMC was forced to purchase jute....(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: Please put the question.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Please do not disturb me. I will finish it just in time.

Sir, NJMC had been forced to purchase the jut from JCI at Rs. 850 per MT but the outside price is Rs.440 per MT. They have lost a few crores of rupees because of this. Last year they had losses amounting to Rs. 65 crores because of the high price that they had to pay and they were forced to weaken.

Secondly, the manpower also created a problem in the Mills. These two causes created by the Government are the main reason. I would like to know whether the Government will remove these obstacles to save the industry.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker,

Sir, we have removed the compulsion that N.J.M.C. should purchase jute from J.C.I. Now N.J.M.C. can purchase it directly. As far as the workers are concerned, the mills are running in loss, and you know all the facts. There was a loss of nearly Rs. 65 crores during the last year. You are also aware of it. As per norms 45 persons are required for per tonne production per day. At present instead of 45 persons, there are 75 persons are engaged. Under V.R. N. Scheme, we have tried to retrench some workers earlier also and some workers have also been retrenched. Presently about 19 thousand workers are working whereas the requirement is of only 12 thousand workers. Therefore, the workers who would like to retire under V.R. N. Scheme, they would be allowed. You can also cooperate with us in this matter.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: I Would like know whether it is a fact that the Government had asked the officials to give all the records and reports to the owners of some private companies and it is divulging this information to the private owners so that it can be damaged and it could be privatised.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no such scheme to hand over these mills to the private owners. When these were nationalised, the aim was to protect the workers. The same object is still before the Government. The hon. Prime Minister has already ensured the House to have a discussion on public undertaking in the House. I think that this issue will also be taken up automatically alongwith it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I would request the hon. Minister to give a specific answer to my question. Is the Government or the Department of Textiles negotiating with Champdany Industries Limited for the purpose of making over these Mills to them? I want a categorical answer whether it is 'Yes' or 'No'.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Sir, I have already said that there is no such proposal.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I would like to know whether any discussion is going on or not.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Sir, there is no such discussion at the level of Ministry.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If not, at any other level and I would like to know whether the Ministry knows about it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Sir, there is no such information available in the Ministry. I shall try to obtain this information and after getting it, I will convey you.

[*English*]

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government can assure the House that NJMC Mills will not be handed over to the private companies and instead of that other revitalisation programmes will be taken up in the right earnest. Will the Government make this specific assurance?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Sir, as I have already told that there is no such programme to hand over these mills directly.

[*English*]

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I would like to know whether the Government can assure the House that these Mills are not going to be

handed over to any private agency but will be revitalised.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Sir, it is not the question of N.J. M. C. alone. The action will be taken in accordance with the decision taken in this regard.

[*English*]

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY: I went to the National Jute Mills, Sankraid, Howrah the biggest of the Nationalised Jute mill, and talked to the workers belonging to all the parties including INTUC. They want to talk to the Government regarding management, purchase of raw jute etc. in the interests of making it viable. Is the Government prepared to talk to the workers and have their opinion?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Sir, as the hon. Member has said and I am also of the opinion that the Government would not hesitate to have a negotiation with the workers before taking any decision.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

### Changes In Credit Policy of RBI to Contain Inflation

\*24. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India announced in October, 1991 certain changes in its credit policy with a view to curbing and containing inflation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the inflationary growth is likely to be brought down thereby