

of the engineering industries have been categorised as priority industries and a liberal policy has been followed for the import of maintenance requirements of the priority industries which covers about 3/4th of the country's production. The import policy in respect of a number of iron and steel items and ferro-alloys was liberalised with effect from 1.4.1970. The position has again been reviewed and it has been decided to allow additional imports of certain iron and steel items to actual users both in the large and small scale sectors and also to the engineering fabricators for export production.

The import of raw materials is financed out of India's export earnings and various external credits available from time to time, and no specific agreement has been signed with any foreign firm or country with reference to the financing of imports under the "liberalised" policy to which reference has been made.

Non-cooperation by Atomic Energy commission with C.S.I.R. on "Scientists Pool" Scheme

1379. SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether her attention has been invited to a report in the Indian Express dated the 11th September, 1970 saying that the Atomic Energy Commission is not co-operating with the "Scientists Pool" scheme of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for providing Engineers and Doctors; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not correct to say that the Atomic Energy Commission is not co-operating with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Scheme of Scientists Pool. Two Scientists from the 'Scientists Pool' are currently attached to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. The arrangement of 'attaching' officers from the 'Scientists Pool' on a temporary basis has not been generally

found satisfactory in relation to the activities of the Atomic Energy Commission which call for a long term commitment. However, when Scientific and Technical posts in the Atomic Energy Commission are filled by open advertisement, the Scientists from the Pool also apply and if found suitable are given regular appointments.

Gandak, Rajasthan and Western Kosi Canals

1380. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 237 on the 5th August, 1970 regarding completion of digging work of Western Kosi Canal, Gandak Canal and Rajasthan Canal and State:

(a) whether requests of the State Governments for the speedy completion of Gandak Rajasthan and Western Kosi Canals have been fully met;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the details thereof;

(d) whether the nationalised banks are being asked to finance these projects by providing full credit needs; and

(e) if not, the causes thereof and efforts being made to secure approval of the Nepal Government for the Western Kosi Canal or to provide alternative irrigation system?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c). Several State Governments have been sending in requests for additional funds for their projects outside their plan ceilings. It has not been found possible to provide such assistance, as all available Central assistance has been already channelled to the States in the form of block loans and grants, without being tied to any individual schemes or heads of development. Additional funds needed for any specific projects would have, therefore, to be arranged by the State Governments by suitable readjustments within their total Annual plan outlay.

(d) and (e). The nationalised banks lend normally money for short-term and in certain cases for medium-term needs only. They also

lend support to the borrowing programmes of the State Governments, but they do not finance directly any irrigation projects which require very long-term loans.

The approval of His Majesty's Government of Nepal to the alignment of the first 22 miles of the Western Kosi Canal is still awaited and all possible efforts are being made to expedite it. Meanwhile a pilot project to irrigate part of the Western Kosi Canal command area through tubewells is also under consideration of the State Government.

Development of Karnali Hydro-Electric Project in Nepal

1381. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1490 on the 5th August, 1970 regarding construction of multipurpose project in Nepal and state:

(a) whether consideration of the proposal for the development of Karnali Hydro-Electric Project in Nepal has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any proposal for hydel multipurpose projects near the falls of Bagmari Kamala and a branch of Kosi has since been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The proposal regarding the development of Karnali Hydro-electric Project in Nepal is still under consideration.

(c) and (d). No proposals in regard to the construction of Hydel/multipurpose projects near the falls of Bhagmati, Kamla and one branch of Kosi in Nepal have been received.

Fall of Jute Prices in Bihar

1382. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5108 on the 2nd September, 1970 and state:

(a) the causes of the fall of Jute prices in

Bihar from Rs. 99.13—191.84 in 1968-69 to Rs. 72.34—155.40 per quintal in 1969-70 and what effect it had on jute cultivation in the present year;

(b) what was the price, production and purchases by the S.T.C. in West Bengal in the corresponding years with causes of the difference; and

(c) whether the information about previous employment of S.T.C. officers has since been collected?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) The fall in price in 1969-70 was due to the larger crop in that year. According to available reports, the crop in Bihar this year is likely to be higher than last year.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Only one Officer, viz. Shri A.K. Sen, Deputy Marketing Manager (Gr. II), who is an ex-employee of a private jute mill, is working in the Branch Office of the Corporation at Calcutta.

STATEMENT

	1968-69	1969-70
Price of Northern Jute (a representative variety) in West Bengal	Rs. 115.21 to Rs. 198.26 per quintal	Rs. 92.34 to Rs. 182.19 per quintal
Production of Jute (and mesta) in West Bengal	15.44 lakh bales	37.36 lakh bales
Purchase of jute in West Bengal by S.T.C.	NIL	36,863 bales

Price disparity between West Bengal and Bihar jute is mainly due to difference in quality, and this is a normal feature.

Balance of Trade with Hard Currency Areas

1383. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) the balance of trade with the dollar and sterling areas on the one hand and with the rupee payment areas on the other during the last three years; and