

(c) The JCI is primarily responsible for undertaking price support operation in the interest of jute growers i.e. it undertakes to purchase the entire quantity of raw jute offered to it at the minimum statutory price fixed by the Government. The JCI also undertakes commercial operation for meeting the requirements of NJMC Mills and State owned and cooperative mills on agency purchase terms and for private sector mills as and when they place tenders with it against guaranteed terms of payment.

#### Raw jute price ceiling

774. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided about raw jute price ceiling in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the jute producing States thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Government fixed statutory maximum prices of different varieties and grades of raw jute, and mesta for delivery in Calcutta and various up-country markets in different jute and mesta growing States for a short period from 7th June to 15 July, 1985. Maximum price of W-5 grade of raw jute ex-other states at Calcutta was fixed at Rs. 600 per quintal and that of TD-5 grade of West Bengal origin at Rs. 595 per quintal. Price of W-5 grade of raw jute at up country markets in Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura was fixed at Rs. 488.50 per quintal. The fixation of maximum price was welcomed by Chief Minister of West Bengal at a meeting since jute was no longer with the growers at that time.

[Translation]

#### Check on export of Frogs

775. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that due to export of frogs and their legs due to which there is an acute shortage of frogs in the country resulting in adverse effect on the environment; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government to check to the export of legs of frogs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Live frogs are exported only on production of legal Procurement Certificate from the State Chief Wild Life Warden. There is no evidence to the effect that exports of frogs and froglegs result in the acute shortage of frogs in the country.

The various measures for conservation of resources taken by Government include banning of processing of froglegs during the 4 months of breeding season in a year, banning of export of froglegs of count more than 80 per Kg., classification of frogs as wildlife under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and putting a ceiling on exports of froglegs from 1983-84 licencing year.

[English]

#### Unearthing of network of people indulging in conversion of money into foreign currency

776 SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government recently found a network of people engaged in converting large sum of money into foreign currency and smuggling it abroad financing the training and arming of terrorists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.