

[*Translation*]

Alleged Misappropriation in State Bank of Indore, Delhi

2137. SHRI RAJKUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that mis-appropriation of about rupees one crore through L. C. Bills took place in the State Bank of Indore, Delhi during 1985;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of officials found guilty so far; and

(c) the departmental action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The State Bank of Indore has reported that the Chandni Chowk Branch of the bank had opened letters of credit of Rs. One crore on behalf of two importers. The documents under the letter of credit were not timely retired by the importers. Consequently, the total outstanding against the letters of credit amounted to Rs. 73.74 lakhs as on 31st March, 1986. One of the importers has taken up the matter to the High Court of Punjab and Haryana and the case is subjudice. The bank has served legal notices on the importers and guarantors for early payment of their dues. The bank has also examined procedural lapses on the part of staff and has called for their explanation which is under process.

[*English*]

Remunerative price for Jute

2138. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that jute growers are not getting remunerative price of their products from the jute mills as well as Jute Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that remunerative price is given to the jute growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) The Jute Corporation of India undertakes to purchase whatever quantity of raw jute offered to it by jute, growers at the minimum statutory price fixed by the Government.

(b) The following steps have been taken in the interests of jute growers :

(i) Statutory minimum prices of raw jute were announced in March, 1986 before the sowing season for the first time;

(ii) JCI and Cooperative, acting as agents of JCI have decided to operate through the same number of purchase centres as previous season;

(iii) JCI is giving wide publicity to its support operations and advising growers not to make any distress sale of raw jute to middlemen below statutory minimum price.

Economic, industrial and trade cooperation pact with Australia

2139. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Australia have entered into a pact for economic industrial, trade and technological cooperation;

(b) if so, whether some concrete projects of cooperation have been worked out; and

(c) the details of the talks already held with the Australian Government as well as private Australian entrepreneurs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir. India and Australia have entered into the following Agreements;

(i) Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology-1975;