

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the alternative proposal to save the jute growers from distress sale of jute ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The Central Government has not mooted the idea of monopoly procurement of raw jute.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) is there to protect the interests of jute growers. It is responsible for undertaking price support operation of raw jute and undertakes to procure whatever quantity of raw jute is offered to it by growers at the minimum statutory price fixed by the Government. The Govt. has also accepted the liability to subsidise the losses incurred by the Corporation on price support operation. The Corporation has so far purchased about 14.27 lakh bales upto 19-11-86.

Downgrading of Regional Offices of CCI & E

3861. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Regional Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports at Hyderabad was downgraded since April, 1985 and made subordinate to Joint Chief Controller at Madras ;

(b) whether this has resulted in inordinate delays in clearance of applications for import-export licences ;

(c) whether several representations were made by the State Government agencies as well as Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry against such a move ; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The downgradation of the office at Hyderabad was done keeping in view the work-load in that office. The matter would be reviewed as and when the work-load warrants the same.

Purchase of raw jute by JCI in West Bengal

3862. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) quantity of raw jute offered to the Jute Corporation of India by the jute growers of West Bengal in the last season between July and September ;

(b) quantity of jute purchased by the J.C.I. from the growers at support price, since 1st July, 1986 ;

(c) quantity of jute sold by the growers at distress sales ;

(d) whether the J.C.I. failed to purchase the full quantity of raw jute offered to it by the growers ; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Jute Corporation of India, alongwith Cooperatives, purchased about 2.76 lakh bales of raw jute from growers in West Bengal during the period between July and September, 1985 of the last season.

(b) During the current jute season, JCI has purchased about 15.17 lakh bales of raw jute up to 24-11-86 at minimum statutory price, out of which about 10.29 lakh bales have been purchased from West Bengal.

(c) to (e) JCI is purchasing whatever quantity of raw jute is offered to it by jute growers at the minimum statutory price fixed by the Government. However, at some places where JCI and Cooperatives do not have purchase centres, the possibility of grow-