

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir. The Prime Minister only emphasised the need to take cost of import substitution into account.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Availability of Bank Lockers only to Fixed Depositors**

2874. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether instructions have been issued by the banks to their branches to allow lockers to only those clients who are prepared to open fixed deposit accounts with the bank;

(b) whether the Secretary of All India INBCC has addressed a letter to the Finance Ministry giving the information that it has been established beyond doubt that the banks prevail upon the clients and make it pre-condition to either bringing deposits from them or enter deposit of friends and relatives before allocation of lockers; and

(c) if so, whether this attitude of banks will not lead to a situation in which rich will monopolise the lockers for fixed deposits and for keeping their black money safe ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The Reserve Bank of India had in 1984 issued certain guidelines to be followed by all public sector banks in allotting lockers to customers. The details of the guidelines are as follows :

(i) Branches should maintain a waiting list for the purpose of allotment of lockers. All applications received for allotment of a locker should be acknowledged and given a waiting list number.

(ii) At least 80 per cent of the lockers should be allotted by branches on first-come-first-served basis. The remaining lockers could be allotted by the branch managers at their

discretion to valued customers on business considerations.

(iii) The banks should not insist on fixed deposits as a pre-requisite for allotment of lockers. There will, however, be no objection to banks seeking a deposit (but not as a condition for allotment) from the applicant who has been allotted a locker, the annual interest from which would not be more than the annual rent of the lockers. In the alternative, advance payment of locker rent for period of three years may be collected from the locker holders. Locker holders who opt for annual payment of rent and default in payment, should not be allowed to operate these lockers till the arrears of rent are cleared.

Banks are following the Reserve Bank of India's guidelines. However, whenever any specific complaints are received regarding non-observance of these guidelines they are looked into for corrective/remedial action.

**Purchase of Raw Jute by Jute Corporation of India**

2875. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has fixed target for purchase of raw jute during the current season;

(b) if so, the details of the target and the value and quantum of raw jute purchased so far by J.C.I.;

(c) the price paid by J.C.I. to the growers for such purchases;

(d) what was the position in relation to (b) and (c) during the last three seasons; and

(e) the State-wise break-up of (b), (c) and (d) above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). Jute Corporation of India has standing instructions to purchase whatever quantity of