

**Fall in Jute Prices and Quantity of Jute  
Purchased by Jute Corporation  
of India**

3036. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) what measures the Union Government have adopted to prevent steep decline in raw jute prices;

(b) the quantity of raw jute purchased so far by the Jute Corporation of India;

(c) the total production of raw jute during the present season, State-wise details thereof; and

(d) the production cost of raw jute per metric tonne ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) The Jute Corporation of India has already procured 18 lakh bales by 29-11-1985 of raw jute which is substantially higher than the highest ever recorded during this period in the past.

(c) So far as production of raw jute during 1985-86 season is concerned, the final estimates as published by the Ministry of Agriculture, are not yet due.

(d) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices while formulating their recommendations on price policy for raw jute for the year 1985-86 have stated that the updated cost of production of raw jute works out to about Rs. 208 per quintal for West Bengal and Rs. 212 per quintal for Assam.

**Statement**

(a) With the harvesting of a bumper crop of raw jute this season, prices have declined to support level in almost all up-country markets. With a view to protecting the interest of jute growers, the following steps have been taken :

(i) The jute Corporation of India has been directed to undertake large scale purchases of raw jute at minimum statutory prices fixed by the Government;

(ii) Sufficient credit has been placed at the disposal of Jute Corporation of India for undertaking price support operation;

(iii) A directive has been issued on 6-9-85 by Jute Commissioner to all working jute mills in the private sector to build up stocks of raw jute up to specified levels so as to step up purchases of raw jute by mills;

(iv) The Jute Corporation of India has been permitted to export a limited quantity of raw jute.

**Differences in Printed and Selling Prices  
of Cigarette**

3037. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that the cigarette manufacturing companies print low prices on the cigarette packets whereas while selling the same cigarette packets to the whole-sale dealers and the retailers they charge higher price; and

(b) the details of the measures taken to fix the selling price of the cigarette packets to the wholesale dealers and the retailers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Instances of sale of certain brands of cigarettes manufactured by some of the cigarettes companies, where the printed prices as declared on the packages were lower than the prices at which such brands were sold in retail, have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) The prices of cigarettes are not statutorily controlled. It is not possible for the Government to fix the prices at which cigarettes should be sold by the manufacturers to the wholesale dealers and retail sellers.