

**Request for Government of Orissa for
Increase in Procurement Price of Raw Jute**

864. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased
to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa have
approached Union Government to increase
the procurement price of raw jute from
existing Rs. 231 per quintal to provide a
remunerating prices to the growers in
Orissa; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government
thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI
KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) The
matter was raised by officials of the Govern-
ment of Orissa during the meeting to discuss
procurement plan held at Bhubneshwar on
13-9-1985 with Chairman cum-Managing
Director, Jute Corporation of India.

(b) Minimum support prices are fixed
by Government taking into account the
recommendations of the Commission for
Agricultural Costs and Prices every year.

Export of Agricultural Items

865. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN
SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Agricultural Commissioners
in the States will be put in charge of locating
agricultural commodities for exports and
promoting their production for this purpose;
and

(b) if so, the main items of agricultural
exports Government are planning ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main items of agricultural
exports indentified are cereals such as rice
and wheat, tobacco, cashew, spices inclu-
ding cardamom and pepper, oil meals,
fruits and vegetables and processed foods.

Export of Foodgrains at Low Price

866. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
have decided to export food grains at price
even below the cost price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would also
supply foodgrains at the same price to the
people of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not,
the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Supply of wheat and rice
through public distribution system is
already being made at subsidised rates.

Import of Corn

867. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-
GRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether is a fact that starch
industry is facing a shortage of corn, the
basic input material following drought
conditions in many States;

(b) whether prices of corn have gone
up to around Rs. 170 per quintal in the new
season as against Rs. 130 per quintal last
year;

(c) if so, whether Government propose
to import corn in view of the low price of
corn—Rs. 120 per quintal in the interna-
tional market; and

(d) if not, the justification thereof and
the measures Government propose to take
to meet the shortfall ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, except in states of

Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, as there is no shortfall.

Central Cottage Industries Emporium

868. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) how many showrooms of the Central Cottage Industries Emporium are there in the country;

(b) whether it is not a fact that in many States, the State Handicrafts Emporia are also functioning with the result that the showrooms of the Central Cottage Industries Emporia are running under loss; and

(c) whether for Central Cottage Industries Emporia were earning profit or running loss during 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited has four show-rooms in India.

(b) and (c). In many States, State Handicrafts Emporia are also functioning which provide competition to the Central Cottage Industries Corporation. As per provisional figures, the Corporation anticipates losses during the year 1984-85.

Committee to go into the Recent Enhancement of Service Charges by Banks

869. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that recently the service charges by banks have been enhanced so high that the small, medium and big industries are suffering very heavily;

(b) whether it is a fact that commission

of letter of guarantee has been increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent per annum and this will make a small scale unit poorer by Rs. 1000 per month, medium scale unit by Rs. 5000 p.m. and large scale unit by Rs. 15000 to Rs. 25000 per month;

(c) whether the industry has urged upon Government to set up a Committee to go thread bare into it and till then suspend collection of the same;

(d) whether similarly other service charges of bank draft, cheques and on ledger folio have been enhanced which the industry will be required to bear;

(e) whether this cost will ultimately be required to be borne by the entrepreneurs and there will be hike in prices; and

(f) when Government propose to set up the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Public sector banks have revised their charges for services rendered by them to customers. The revisions have been effected with the objective of covering to a substantial extent the costs incurred by the banks in rendering such services.

(b) The rates of commission varied from bank to bank. A comparison is therefore not possible. The extent of increased expenditure will depend upon a unit's availing of such facility from banks and will differ from unit to unit.

(c) Representations have been received by Government/Reserve Bank of India about the increase in service charges and about setting up a Committee to examine the increase in the service charges.

(d) The revised service charges cover most of the major services provided by banking industry including those relating to bank drafts, cheques and ledger folios.

(e) The cost of bank charges constitute a small fraction of the total cost of production. Variation therein are, therefore, not expected to affect prices.