

that the present system of maintaining statistics does not contain the break-up of frauds according to the type of transactions in which a fraud has taken place. However, the banks report to Reserve Bank of India all cases of frauds detected by them. The banks investigate the modus operandi, the involvement of bank employees and according to the nature of involvement, i.e. negligence or connivance in the fraud, action is taken by the bank which includes reporting to the Police/Central Bureau of Investigation for prosecution under the law. The number of cases where employees/officers of public sector banks were involved in fraudulent transactions and the action taken against them in all cases of frauds throughout India during the year 1984 is given below :

(i) No. of employees against whom departmental enquiries were held	— 465
(ii) No. of employees against whom challans were filed	— 156
(iii) No. of employees who were arrested	— 68
(iv) No. of employees against whom court cases were filed	— 84
(v) No. of employees who were convicted	— 14

[English]

Jute and Cotton Growers Facing Slump in Prices

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

(a) whether it is a fact that jute and cotton growers have been facing slump in prices of their products; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the incentives Government propose to give to the jute and cotton growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). With record crop for the current year,

there has been a decline in prices for both jute and cotton. In order to safeguard the interests of the farmers, Government have announced minimum support prices for the season and both Cotton Corporation of India and Jute Corporation of India are in the market to provide remunerative return to the farmers.

The Jute Corporation of India has already procured over 15 lakh bales of jute so far which is substantially higher than the highest ever recorded during this period. Moreover, directives have been issued by the Jute Commissioner to the private sector mills under Jute (Licensing and Control) Order to build up adequate stocks of raw jute. The Jute Corporation of India will continue to procure jute from the farmers all the offerings at minimum support prices.

As regards cotton, the Government have released since January, 1985, a quota of 3.95 lakh bales for export through various agencies in order to relieve the pressure of arrivals. The Reserve Bank of India has recently notified selected credit control for enabling cotton trade and ginning as well as pressing factories to make purchase of cotton.

Import of Indian Engineering Products by Soviet Union

957. SHRI SRIVALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet Union which has emerged as the top importer of Indian engineering products is planning to change the pattern of trade with India by going in for long-term production of orders;

(b) if so, whether any delegation has recently visited Indian in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the agreements, if any, in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). Both India and the Soviet Union have been taking steps to diversify and broad-base