

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) No demand has been received for grant of Statehood to Kolhan. However, a representation has been received in December, 1986 from one "Kolhan Co-ordination Committee", for grant of Union territory status to it.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government of India.

Import of Arms and Ammunition from Singapore

*162. **SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have put a ban on import of arms and ammunition from Singapore by Indians as a part of baggage ;

(b) if so, when the ban was imposed ; and

(c) the reasons for imposing the ban ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). On receipts of reports from some Indian Missions abroad about an unprecedented spurt in the import of firearms as part of baggage by Indian tourists, which in the prevailing conditions was not considered desirable, a ban on such imports was imposed with effect from 13.11.86.

Export Levy on Poultry Products

1556. **SHRI H.B. PATIL :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have imposed export levy on poultry products ;

(b) if so, to what extent and the reasons thereof ;

(c) whether a committee was appointed in March, 1984 to study the export potential of the industry ;

(d) if so, whether Government have received the report ; and

(e) the details of major recommendations made and those accepted by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) and (b) With effect from 15th December, 1986, a levy of 0.5% *ad valorem* has been imposed on export of products appearing in the Schedule to the Agricultural and Processed Foods Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985. Poultry and Poultry products are included in the Schedule. The levy has been imposed in terms of the Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Cess Act, 1985 to fund activities of the Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.

(c) No such Committee has been appointed.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Financial Assistance to Revive Sick Jute Industry

1557. **SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial assistance has been given to West Bengal Government to revive sick jute industry units ;

(b) if so, the number of such sick mills ;

(c) number of jute mills looked after by Union Government at present ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to solve the problems of jute industry in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Six jute mills have been nationalised by the Central Government and are

being managed by National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd. Calcutta (A Government of India Undertaking).

(d) A statement as given below.

Statement

The Government has been taking various steps from time to time to improve the performance of jute industry. The steps taken by the Government include :—

- (i) Purchase of jute goods by Government (DGS&D) from jute industry according to Palekar formula ;
- (ii) Two new constructions of jute and jute-based bags permitted for commercial use by Cement Industry ;
- (iii) Efforts being made to find out alternative uses of jute in packing tea, production of carpets, blankets etc. ;
- (iv) A buffer stock scheme of raw jute in operation so as to bring stability in raw jute prices ;
- (v) Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme of Rs. 150 crores started with effect from 1st November, 1986 ;
- (vi) A Special Jute Development Fund of Rs. 100 crores created for restructuring/re-opening/rehabilitation of jute industry as well as for development of jute agriculture ;
- (vii) Providing higher cash compensatory support for export of jute goods.

In addition to the above it is proposed to enact an enabling legislation under which Government would notify from time to time the percentage of production and supply of commodities which should be mandatorily packed in jute material.

[Translation]

Intrusion feared to be Increased due to New Railway Line

1558. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the apprehensions expressed in some quarters that the re-opening of Rajasthan Sindh Railway Line will help in entry of foreign intruders ;

(b) if so, whether there is any basis for this apprehension ; and

(c) the preventive steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Sufficient safeguards will be provided to prevent entry of unauthorised persons in case the line is reopened.

[English]

Expansion of Sericulture

1559. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new proposals for expansion of sericulture in the country is under consideration of Government ;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed projects ; and

(c) what is the total estimated cost of the projects and the quantum allocated for this purpose under the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIS. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c). Central