

**Wage agreements for jute workers**

4906. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent wage agreements made in West Bengal for workers of National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Mills (after a prolonged strike) and workers of private sector jute mills (without strike) have imposed a higher financial burden on the former than on the latter; and

(b) if so, whether this will give a comparative advantage to the private mill owners over the nationalised sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). While a final wage agreement has been arrived at for the private sector jute mills, the settlement for National Jute Manufactures Corporation mills is only interim in nature. A strict comparison between the two is not appropriate.

**Import of Capital Goods**

4907. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether imports of capital goods during April to September 1987 were about Rs. 500 crores higher than in the corresponding period of 1986;

(b) if so, whether the hike in import duties on capital goods has failed to check this trend;

(c) whether the Confederation of Engineering Industries has voiced its concern at the harmful impact on indigenous production of capital goods; and

(d) Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, the higher imports of capital goods is attributable to a number of factors including increased industrial activity, upgradation of technology expansion and modernisation of the existing industrial units.

(c) and (d). CEI has made some suggestions in respect of import of capital goods in the context of the formulation of the New Import Export Policy which have been duly considered.

**Payment by Iraq for construction projects**

4908. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to Iraq making payment for the various Railway and other construction work undertaken in that country to the form of supply of oil;

(b) if so, the estimated amount which Iraq owns to the Railway Ministry and other Government agencies for various jobs executed in that country;

(c) in what manner the price of oil to be supplied in lieu will be determined, whether it has been already agreed upon in view of the falling oil price in the OPEC market or any price mutually agreed upon and what precautions have been taken to see that the fluctuations in the oil prices do not cause any financial loss to India; and

(d) whether any period has been stipulated to liquidate these dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R.