

Retrenchment of workers in Jute Industry in West Bengal

4457. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that jute mills owners in West Bengal have again started retrenchment in jute industry on the plea that there is dearth of raw jute; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto and steps taken to prevent the closures?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). According to the information received from the Government of West Bengal, there has not been any report of retrenchment of any permanent or special Badli workers by jute mills in West Bengal recently.

Occupancy of Indians in Five Star Hotels in Delhi

4458. SHRI KISHORE LAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether the percentage of Indians occupying rooms/suites in Five Star Hotels in Delhi has been higher than the foreigners?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): The percentage of Indians who occupied rooms/suites in the five star hotels in Delhi during the year 1976 was 25.5 per cent as compared to 74.25 per cent in the case of foreigners.

Rise in price of Charcoal due to export

4459. SHRI B. C. KAMBLE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently export of charcoal has been started;

(b) whether as a result of export of charcoal prices of charcoal have been increased in India and particularly in the city of Bombay;

(c) whether as a result of export of charcoal about 4000 charcoal small shops of Bombay are on the verge of being closed down; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to give relief to the consumers in particular and shopkeepers in general?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):

(a) The export of charcoal has been allowed for a number of years on a restricted basis.

(b) to (d). According to information received from the Government of Maharashtra, charcoal prices have increased in Bombay but not necessarily due to export. The main reasons reported for the increase in prices are:—

(a) an overall fall in production of charcoal;

(b) increase in rent of storage of charcoal by Bombay Port Trust;

(c) increase in fees of municipal trade licence.

Sample survey carried out by Controller of Rationing, Bombay, has revealed that no dealer has been induced to close down due to export of charcoal. To avoid any complaints of shortage, the export of wood charcoal from Maharashtra has been stopped on the recommendations of the State Government.

Memorandum from All India State Bank Officers' Federation on D.A. Issue

4460. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state whether Government received a