

Closure of J.K. Manufacturers Ltd., Kanpur

2983. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the J.K. Manufacturers Ltd., Kanpur is lying closed since 1st October, 1976 without obtaining necessary permission;

(b) whether Government are aware of the reported cases of suicide by the affected employees;

(c) whether the U.P. Government have recommended take over of the mills by the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) M/s. J. K. Manufacturers Ltd., Kanpur has been lying closed since 1-10-1976 on account of financial difficulties. It is learnt from U.P. Government that some cases of suicide have been alleged by individuals but there is no official confirmation of the fact nor its linkage with the closure of the mill. The matter relating to the closure of the Mill has been under active consideration of Government and one of the proposals in this connection has been the suggestion from U.P. Government for take over of the Mill.

Consortium of Jute Growing Countries

2984. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh has recently suggested that all jute growing countries should form a consortium on the lines of OPEC;

(b) the countries which are proposed to be included;

(c) whether such an international body's main purpose would be to maintain fibre prices at a high level, leading to growth of substitutes; and

(d) Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): a) to (d) Government of India has not received any formal communication regarding proposal of Bangladesh for formulation of consortium of Jute growing countries. Government may consider taking a view on the subject at appropriate time.

Barter deals with Soviet Union

2985. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to enter into another barter deal with the Soviet Union for export of rice in exchange of crude/petroleum products; and

(b) whether the supplies against the previous barter deals with the Soviet Union have been exchanged completely, if not, what are the outstandings—commodity-wise and quantity-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Agreement has been reached for import of crude oil and HSD from the USSR and export of rice from India over and above the provision made in the Trade Plan with that country for 1980.

(b) In pursuance of a similar agreement concluded in 1979, a total quantity of 5.7 lakh tonnes of crude oil has been imported from the USSR. Against this import, 2 lakh tonnes of rice have already been shipped to the USSR; another quantity of more than one lakh tonnes of rice is yet to be supplied.