

(c) The reasons for the recent decline in India's exports to U.K. are the steep increase in the rate of inflation, growth of protectionist policies and prevailing recession in U.K. which has particularly hit the textiles, tobacco, leather and engineering exports. Moreover ban on export of silver has also adversely affected our exports to U.K.

(d) Apart from trade promotion measures like participation in fairs, undertaking market surveys and exchange of trade delegations, closer contacts between Indian exporters of engineering components with U.K. buyers generic promotion campaigns for tea and carpets exploration of possibilities of collaboration in the field of leather goods manufactures and special efforts to improve shipping services between India and U.K. are being undertaken. In addition, a suggestion has been made during the recent Indo-British Economic Committee meeting for the visit of a high level trade mission to U.K. to identify specific areas in which exports could be increased.

Performance of Jute Corporation of India

3374. SHRI B. D. SINGH:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR
SINGH:
SHRI CHNANGUR RAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment with regard to the performance of the Jute Corporation of India in safeguarding the interests of the jute growers in the country; and

(b) if so, the result thereof and steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) The working of the Jute Corporation of

India (JCI) is under constant review of the Government.

(b) The main features of the performance of Jute Corporation of India during the current year have been as follows:

(i) Procurement as on 15-2-81 was about 10.22 lakh bales against 8.68 lakh bales in the previous year;

(ii) The godown capacity has been increased from about 12 lakh bales in the preceding year to 20.29 lakh bales;

(iii) About 80 per cent of the purchases during the current year have been made from the growers. Jute Corporation of India has implemented a scheme of direct purchases from growers certified by Panchayats in some selected Districts of West Bengal on an experimental basis; and

(iv) JCI has been able to sell about 11.25 lakh bales of raw jute to the jute mills in the country and also contracted exports of about 87,000 bales.

Government have appointed a Study Group to make suitable recommendations for improvement in the working of the Corporation. A Working Group has also been constituted to suggest measures for forging effective links between cooperative credit and marketing to protect the interests of the jute growers.

Shore Based Steel Plant at Haldia

3375. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up one of the shore-based steel plant at Haldia;

(b) if so, when it is expected to set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?