

Raw jute cost was based on W-5 variety at prevalent markets rate which was as follows :

1978-79	Rs. 215.03	per quintal
1979-80	Rs. 225.00	„
	(monthly average in November 1978)	
1980-81	Rs. 217.50	(*)
1981-82	Rs. 217.50	(*)

(\*) The statutory minimum prices of Rs. 217.50 was taken as the basis for the calculation of raw jute cost for 1980-81 and 1981-82 which were also the ruling market prices as per quotation for the relevant periods.

JMDC Technical Committee's norms have been adopted for batch mix and net input in the calculation of jute batch cost.

Conversion cost for B. Twills (Sacking) was worked out on the basis of Palekar Commission's recommendations giving necessary adjustments for such changes as were known to have taken place from time to time. Conversion cost of Hessian and Carpet Backing were calculated by applying the ratio in which B. Twill costs have changed over TCRE (Tariff Commission Revised Estimates) of 1972 figures to TCRE figures for Hessian and Carpet Backing.

Palekar Commission did not provide for the cost due to power cut and load shedding as a separate items. Since in recent years they have been the cause of a major cost item for the industry, provisions for it was made on the basis of estimates arrived at making full use of all available data. Since most of the jute mills have installed generators to recoup the loss due to power cut, due effect was given to the impact of recoupment cost.

#### Number of Sponge Iron Plants

4563. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state ;

(a) the total number of sponge iron plants set up in the country;

(b) the places where such sponge iron plants have been set up;

(c) whether it is a fact that more sponge iron plants are coming up; and

(d) if so, the name of places where such new Sponge dependent in sponge iron?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). At present only one sponge iron plant is in production at Kothagudem, Andhra Pradesh. Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (IPICOL) has been granted a letter of intent for 300,000 tonnes per annum of sponge iron to be set up in Keonjhar in Orissa. Of this, a capacity of 1,50,000 tonnes per annum is likely to be commissioned early next year and the rest is under implementation.

(c) and (d). The question is not clear, but further Letters of Intent have been issued to the Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation and IPICOL for 1,20,000 tonnes and 90,000 tonnes capacities, respectively.

#### Malpractices in the Central Coal Supply Organisation of SAIL

4563. SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a letter dated 8th October, 1981 about the malpractices going on in the Central Coal Supply Organisation of SAIL ;