

continue to be maintained by Air Force Central Accounts Office who are under the Ministry of Defence. The question of transfer of this work to CDA (H Qrs.) is under examination.

(d) and (e). Except for civilians in Naval Headquarters, GPF Statements in other cases for 1980-81 have already been sent. As regard civilians in Naval Headquarters, the same are expected to be issued as early as possible—latest by end December, 1981.

Provision of relief to Jute Industry

1098. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to provide relief to the jute industry by setting up a short-term buffer stock for the jute sacking and payment for carpet backing export; and

(b) if so, the details of this incentive, along with details of other incentives proposed by Government for the jute industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN):

(a) and (b). The following incentive measures have been taken in order to lift the jute industry from out of the present depression:—

(1) Procurement of one lakh bales of B'Twill bags under E.C. Act through DGS&D on an indent to be placed by Food Corporation of India as 'one-time bridging operation' to be adjusted against future requirement of the same, as a measure of market stability.

(2) Grant of cash compensatory support on FOB value on exports of almost all exportable items of jute goods, including jute carpet backing

cloth with effect from 1st September, 1981, till 31st March, 1982, as a measure of export promotion.

(3) Instructions have been issued to cement industry for reducing the use of second-hand jute bags from 20% to 10%. In other words, 90% new jute bags have to be used for packing cement in future.

(4) Reserve Bank of India has advised all Commercial Banks to provide additional credit to jute mills for purchase of raw jute upto 14 weeks' consumption inclusive of 4 weeks consumption from JCI and additional two weeks' consumption during peak season of November 1981 to January 1982, as a measure of price support operation for raw jute. Banks have also been advised to consider reducing the margin to 10% for purchase of raw jute to be made in November and December and 15% for purchase to be made in January 1982.

Carrying of kirpans by Sikhs in I.A. flights

1099. SHRI CHINTAMAN JENA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to review its decision regarding Kirpan issue;

(b) whether the Chairman of the Minorities Panel has expressed his opinion and advised Government to review or reconsider its stand in regard to the wearing and carrying of kirpans in view of the relevant Constitutional provisions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.