

रुपये की विनिमय दर का निर्धारण उन देशों की करेंसियों की उपयुक्त रूप से भारत डाली के आधार पर किया जाता है जो भारत के व्यापार में प्रमुख भागीदार हैं रुपया तथा विभिन्न अन्य करेंसियों के बीच विनिमय दरें इन करेंसियों के मूल्य में होने वाली घट-बढ़ के अनुसार घटती-बढ़ती रहती हैं तथा सब बात तो यह है कि किसी विशेष करेंसी के सम्बन्ध में "अवमूल्यन" शब्द की कोई प्रासंगिकता नहीं है।

(ग) और (घ). यदि अमेरिकी डालर सहित अन्य करेंसियों की तुलना में रुपये की विनिमय दर में होने वाले परिवर्तन से भारत को कोई आर्थिक हानि हुई हो तो उसे अलग करना सम्भव नहीं है।

#### Purchasing Power of Rupee

4151. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the purchasing power of the rupee has already dipped yet another new low and touched 20 paise during July this year with 1960 as the base year; and

(b) if so, whether a further devaluation of the Rupee is under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The All-India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers' (1960=100) moved up from 470 in June 1982 to 478 in July 1982. Correspondingly the domestic purchasing power of the rupee measured as a reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index came down from 21.28 paise in June 1982 to 20.92 paise in July 1982.

(b) No, Sir.

#### Production of Jute and its purchase by Jute Corporation of India

4152. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of jute produced by the jute growers during the season;

(b) the quantity jute purchased by the Jute Corporation of India from the jute growers and what was the purchase price of jute;

(c) the names of the jute mills which are still closed or locked out and the number of workers involved in each mill and what steps have been taken for the reopening of these mills;

(d) whether Government have received any suggestion from the representatives of jute workers and trade Unions to solve the crisis between jute worker and the jute mills owners; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken so far by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) The combined jute and mesta crop during the year 1982-83 Jute season is expected to be about 60/62 lakh bales.

(b) During July to October, 1982 (upto 25-10-82), JCI has purchased a total quantity of 6.62 lakh bales including 1.45 lakh bales under commercial operation. Procurement under price support operation has been made at statutory minimum price of Rs. 175 per quintal (ex-Assam) fixed by the Government of W-5 grade for 1982-83 jute season.

(c) A statement is attached.

(d) and (e). Some of the jute workers' unions have expressed concern over the continued lock-out in the jute mills. Labour being a state subject, it was not possible for the Central Govt. to intervene directly in the matter.

## Statement

The requisite information is given below:

Name of jute mills still closed/locked-out	No. of workers involved
1. Empire Jute Co. Ltd., Titagarh.	3000
2. Gouri Shankar Jute Mills Ltd., Jagatdal	2000
3. Naffar Chandra Jute Co. Ltd., Kankinarah.	1500
4. Ludlow Jute Mills Ltd., Changail, Howrah.	4500
5. Ganges Jute Mfg. Ltd., Hooghly.	6400
6. Eastern Mfg. Col. Ltd., Titagarh.	2050
7. Kamarhatty Jute Mills, Kamarhatty.	5000
8. Hashimara Industries Ltd. (Jute), Jagatdal.	2500
9. North Brook Co. Ltd., Hooghly	3400
10. Kankinarah Jute Mills, Kankinarah.	5000
	35200

The locked-out mills are private mills. Labour being a State subject it would not be possible for the Central Government to intervene directly in the matter. However, Government is keen that jute industry's problems are solved as early as possible. The following ameliorative measures aimed at stimulation of demand for correcting supply-demand situation as far as possible, have already been taken:

1. Continuous grant of CSS on export of jute goods.

2. Purchase of substantial quantity of jute bags from mills through DGS&D from time to time under Essential Commodities Act at cost-plus prices after linking it with purchase of raw jute from JCI, so as to restore buoyancy in jute goods market.

3. Compulsory use of new jute bags for packing cement.

4. Persuading other user departments to use more jute bags for packing of fertilizers/ sugar and foodgrains.

5. Grant of letters of intent for setting up of 100 per cent export oriented units for manufacture of new products.

6. Active participation of STC in export of sacking under a consortium arrangement.

7. Active participation in regional and international level inter-Governmental deliberations to consider measures for stabilization of prices and supplies of jute and jute products and promotion of an International Jute Organisation for enabling corrective actions on global fronts consistent with the interests of both producers and consumers of jute goods.

There has been improvement in ganmy market from later part of September onwards. Prices of both hessian and sacking have firmed up. Recent decision of Govt. to procure substantial quantity of B. Twill under E.C. Act of cost plus prices within a short period of two months of October & November, 1982 has also stimulated the market. The Jute mills have stopped distress selling. Mills remaining

closed due to various factors including financial difficulties are showing keenness for reopening and in fact some of them have already resumed working and few others are likely to reopen in near future.

### **Alleged Involvement of Government Officials in Smuggling**

4153. DR. A. U. AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Customs authorities have registered a case under the Customs Act, 1962, against four Heads of Departments of U.P. Government and their subordinates of alleged involvement in smuggling of goods into the country from Nepal borders;

(b) if so, full details of the case together with the action taken thereon and the *modus operandi* in the matter; and

(c) the present position of the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): (a) to (c) On the 22nd March, 1982, the Customs authorities in Lucknow received information that one Shri S. S. Srivastava, proprietor of a photographic concern at Calcutta, had supplied illegally imported cameras and other photographic equipment to the Uttar Pradesh State Government Departments of Tourism, Information, Archaeology and Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

Shri S. S. Srivastava, who was apprehended on the 23rd March, 1982, denied having supplied the goods. However, search of his brief case resulted in the recovery of documents revealing that he had in fact supplied the photographic equipment to the above departments.

Letters were thereafter issued by the Customs authorities to the concerned State Government departments to hand over the offending goods for action under the law.

Appropriate proceedings are being initiated under relevant provisions of the Customs law with respect to the offending goods and against the persons found to be *prima facie* concerned in terms of section 112 of the Customs Act, 1962.

### **Objections by Importing Countries against Export Items**

4154. SHRI K. A. SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any objections have been raised by the importing countries against some of our export items on grounds of non-compliance with their environmental standards; and

(b) if so, the details of the products and the nature of objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Government is not aware of any such objections raised by importing countries against Indian export items on grounds of non-compliance of environmental standards.

(b) Does not arise.

### **News-item Captioned "Vayudoot is making Castles in the Air"**

4155. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vayudoot has not been found suitable and economically viable to serve as a feeder service;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) if not, whether his attention has been drawn to a press report in the Hindustan Times of 3rd October, 1982 under the heading "Vayudoot is making castles in the air"; and

(d) if so, his reaction in the matter?