

ducts are facing severe competition from synthetic substitutes in the world market. India's exports of jute goods are also facing keen competition from other jute exporting countries. India's exports in 1982-83 have come down to 3,29,500 tonnes from 4,04,800 tonnes in 1981-82.

(b) Several steps are being taken by the Government to improve exports of jute goods. These are :-

- (i) Cash compensatory support schemes for export of various types of jute goods are being continued. The CCS is now being granted at a higher rate to the public sector State Trading Corporation and National Jute Manufactures Corporation for exports of hessian and sacking for effective participation in global tenders as well as through direct negotiations with the foreign importing agencies in markets outside USSR and the Socialist countries of Eastern Europe.
- (ii) Since exports of carpet backing cloth to United States have come under severe competition from synthetics the exports of this item to North American countries have been canalised through STC. A consortium has also been formed between STC and the exporting mills for exports of CBC to USA with 50 : 50 loss-sharing arrangement. While NJMC is already exporting substantial quantity of CBC through STC in this market, efforts are being made to persuade private mills to join this consortium.
- (iii) Intensive product development efforts through Research & Development are being made to make our exports more competitive. Both Houses of Parliament have already passed the Jute Manufactures Development Council Bill, 1983 and the Jute Manufactures Cess Bill, 1983. The formation of the new JMDC will be a major step in improving R & D efforts in jute industry as well as

for intensive market promotion for jute goods. This will also form the nucleus of an export price stabilisation fund.

- (iv) India has been participating in trade fairs and workshops on jute exports and sponsoring market-oriented trade delegations. The Jute Manufactures Development Council have recently participated in the prestigious International Carpet and Rug Market at Atlanta in July, 1983 for promoting the exports of CBC. The JMDC will also participate in an equally important carpet fair to be held at Harrogate in Western Europe in September 1983.
- (v) The setting up of 100% export-oriented units in the jute industry are being encouraged.
- (vi) Efforts are being made to arrive at a mutual consensus with Bangladesh on a joint export marketing strategy. India has also signed the draft International Jute Agreement for promoting international co-operative action on jute front.

#### India's position in tourist trade

4277. SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the position India is possessing as a competitor in the international communities and Asian countries in the tourists trade;
- (b) the total amount earned in foreign exchange by India during the years 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84;
- (c) the further prospects and potential in the future for India's tourist trade; and

(d) what specific measures are being taken to further improve the tourist trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) India competes for attracting tourist traffic with other major tourist receiving countries of the world.

(b) The foreign exchange earnings from tourism in India are computed by the Department on a calendar year and not on a financial year basis. The estimates for the years 1978 to 1983 are as under :-

Year	Rs. crores
1978	338
1979	384
1980	482
1981	702*
1982	750*
1983 (PE)	800*

(c) In view of the abundant tourist sites and attractions and the Government's constant endeavour to develop and promote tourism, India's future prospects for tourism are very bright.

(d) The measures envisaged to improve the tourist trade include promotion of charter traffic, hosting international conferences/conventions, increased marketing and promotion overseas, opening of new offices overseas as for instance in Kuala Lumpur, the Gulf Region and Sri Lanka, development of facilities at tourist centres falling along identified travel circuits, expansion of air services, air routes, carrying capacity as well as the capacity of existing airports and cons-

truction of new air terminals, promoting regional tourism from neighbouring countries including countries of West Asia, improving the quality and availability of surface transport facilities and many others.

#### Production and purchase of jute

4278. SHRI D.L. BAITHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of jute produced by the farmers and purchased by various agencies viz. Jute Corporation of India, various jute mills, direct from the farmers and prices paid to the farmers during the last three years, year-wise, agency-wise and State-wise; and

(b) whether it is a fact that only a very small percentage of produced quantity, was purchased by the Jute Corporation of India with the result that the jute growers had made distress sale of their jute crops even at a lower price and if so, what measures Government contemplate to take to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) Details of purchases of raw jute made by jute mills and other agencies, excepting Jute Corporation of India, (JCI) are not available with the Government. Details of production of raw jute and mesta, during the last three years year-wise and the purchases made by the JCI through its own Departmental Purchase Centres as also through State Apex Co-operative Organisations who act as their agents are given in the enclosed Statement.

2. During 1980-81 and 1981-82, the entire procurements by JCI were made at statutory minimum prices though the ruling market rates were in general lower.

3. During 1982-83, about 6.35 lakh bale of raw jute were procured at statutory mini-

\*Includes earnings from nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh.  
(PE) Provisional Estimate.