

### Export of Coir Products

955. SHRI R.N. RAKESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have proposals to increase exports of coir products to Scandinavia and other countries; if so, full details thereof; and

(b) whether Government have any plans to improve R&D effort in order to diversify use of coir products for internal consumption as well as new products for exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) Various Promotional efforts to develop export markets for Indian Coir and Coir products in the world including Scandinavia are being intensified. These include market surveys, participation in Exhibitions and advertisements in periodicals. Recently, a delegation sponsored by the Coir Board visited Demark among other countries for a market survey.

(b) Various measures are contemplated to intensify the R&D effort to diversify use of Coir products. Particular attention is being devoted to process improvement, product diversification, design development and improvement in quality. A needle felt plant has been installed in Central Institute of Coir Technology, Bangalore. A Jacquere loom has been imported for product improvement. Research is also being undertaken for weaving quality mat and mattings. A modern dye-house is being commissioned soon.

### Allegations against Chairman of A.E.P.C.

956. SHRI ASHFAQ HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Chairman of the Apparels Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, who was previously the Vice-Chairman of Southern Zone, has com-

mitted frauds in the matter of garments quota allotments, bank deposit receipts as bank guarantees and if so, details thereof;

(b) will the Government place on the Table of the House report of the Enquiry Committee and in the meantime ask the present Chairman to step aside from the office till Government decisions on this Report is made known ; and

(c) will the Government follow the following promise made by the then Commerce Minister, Shri Mohan Dharia, in Lok Sabha on 1st December, 1978 when he said: We have already made it very clear that wherever the Chairman or the Members are involved in their own quotas of exports, they should not work on these committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) The Apparels Export Promotion Council has reported that some cases involving a firm, in which the Chairman of the Council is a partner, have come to notice where shipments of garments seem to have been made against unauthorised export documents. Regarding acceptance of security for allotment of export entitlements, the Council has decided that fixed deposit receipts of banks in favour of the AEPC would also be acceptable.

(b) The alleged irregularity in exports is still under investigation by the Probe Committee of the AEPC.

(c) The Chairman of the Council did not attend the meeting of the Probe Committee in which this case was discussed.

### भारत को यू०के० से सहायता

957. श्री राम प्यारे पनिका : क्या बिस्व मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यूनाइटेड किंगडम ने भारत को सहायता देने का फैसला किया है ;