

Meeting of Representatives of Jute Industry and Foreign Trade Officials

2317. **SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA** : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether discussions between the representatives of jute industry and the Officers of his ministry were held in the month of April 1971 ;

(b) whether at the discussion, the industry had sought an increase of Rs. 300 per tonne in the price of paper backing ;

(c) whether the question of augmenting production of jute goods was also considered at the meeting ; and

(d) if so, the decisions taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The industry had asked for an upward revision of the minimum price of carpet backing.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) It was agreed that production in jute industry should be raised to an average monthly level of about 110,000 tonnes. No decision has been taken on the question of revision of minimum price of carpet backing.

Purchase of Jute from Thailand

2318. **SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA** : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items appearing in the Economic Times, dated the 17th May, 1971 that due to Red Tape Havoc the country is likely to lose nearly three million pounds in the purchase of jute from Thailand ;

(b) whether his Ministry had been requested for clearance for the purchase of 5 lakhs bales of jute in September, 1970 and no final decision could be taken before March, 1971 and in the mean while the cost of Thai Jute very high ;

(c) whether according to an expert team, what is available with Thailand now is not Jute but chaff which may not be very useful in the country ; and

(d) if so, whether Government would proceed further with this proposed purchase and how the short-fall is going to be met ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The question of importing jute/mesta had been taken up in September, 1970. The prices of fibre abroad had affirmed up by the time decision was taken to import. Since mills evinced no interest in imported jute at high prices and in view of reports that the quality of fibre available was very poor, no imports have been made. There was, however, no shortage of fibre in the country.

The 1971-72 jute and mesta crop in the country is expected to be good and no shortage of fibre is anticipated in the next season. The imports of fibre will also be considered if such a measure is found essential.

Export of Pepper under Manila Pact

2319. **SHRI T. S. LAKSHMANAN : SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR** :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of pepper will not improve as a result of the Manila Pact signed by India, Indonesia and Malaysia ;

(b) whether Indonesia is exporting pepper in contravention of this Pact ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect India's interests ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). No 'Pact' as such has been signed. Perhaps the reference is to the proposed Pepper Community, the agreement of which was signed by India, Indonesia and Malaysia in Manila. As no trading arrangement has been considered under the Agreement, the question of Indonesia exporting pepper in contravention of Pepper Agreement does not arise.

Introduction of Generalised System of Preferences by E.E.C.

2320. SHRI T. S. LAKSHMANAN :
SHRI C. CHITTIBABU :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European Economic Community will be introducing a generalised system of preference from July, 1971 ;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme ; and

(c) whether India will be benefited by this system and, if so, the manner thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the G.S.P., the E.E.C. has offered duty free entry for all manufactured and semi-manufactured products falling under Chapters 25-99 of the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature originating in all developing countries including India. Items falling in the Agricultural Sector (Chapters 1-24 of BTN) have been included on a selection basis. These will enjoy only a small reduction in the Common External Tariff.

(c) Yes, Sir. All the non-traditional items of exports from India will be benefited in varying degrees.

Murder of Shri Hemantha Kumar Basu

2321. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have asked the State Government to make all possible efforts for unearthing the plot that led to the murder of Shri Hemantha Kumar Basu, a veteran political leader, in view of the fact that several representations were made to Government regarding the matter ;

(b) whether a colleague of late Hemantha Kumar Basu, Shri Ajit Biswas, who was a candidate in the Byelection in the Constituency of Shri Basu, was also brutally killed recently ;

(c) if so, whether a special investigation committee under the C. B. I. is proposed to be set up to enquire into these double tragedies and haul up the criminal ; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the alternative steps taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The investigations into the two murders are already in progress. The Central Government will however provide all necessary assistance as may be sought by the State Government, in the investigations.

Team from Centre to study Cashew Industry in Kerala

2322. SHRI C. CHITTIBABU :
SHRIMATI BHARGAVI
THANKAPPAN :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Central Team Visited Kerala State recently to study the problems of Cashew industry there ;

(b) if so, the results of this study ; and

(c) the follow-up action Government have taken or propose to take ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The report has been received only a few days back and is under the consideration of the Government.

Special Courts for Summary Trials in Areas affected by Communal Trouble

2323. SHRI ESWARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up special courts to hold