

Desh for import of tendu leaves from India, under the Trade Agreement.

(b) Does not arise.

Tobacco Purchased by State Trading Corporation in Andhra Pradesh

6225. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and prices at which the State Trading Corporation has so far purchased tobacco in Andhra Pradesh ; and

(b) the manner in which these stocks have been disposed of ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) 9.3 million kgs of *Kutchu* tobacco have been purchased by State Trading Corporation. The prices paid varied in accordance with the grade of the tobacco purchased and were to be not less than what was paid in 1971.

(b) State Trading Corporation are making efforts to locate markets to dispose of these stocks

STC Chairman's Statement Regarding Turnover of STC

6226. SHRI BHARAT SINGH CHOWHAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to figures of State Trading Corporation Turnover published in *Times of India* dated the 1st April, 1972 ; and

(b) if so, whether these also include all the exports which have been routed through the State Trading Corporation by private industries ?

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

(b) These figures represent the direct trade of the STC and its subsidiaries.

Decision to Withdraw Departmental Catering in Mail Trains

6227. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the

Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether government have decided to withdraw departmental catering in many mail trains and replace it by private catering service ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). Only in the case of IUP/2ND Kalka Mails, a decision has been taken to hand over the management of Dining Car to a contractor as continuation of these services by the Railways was not proving to be remunerative. No decision has been taken in respect of other trains as yet

Minimum Support Price of Raw Jute

6228. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :
SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government intend to fix the minimum support price for raw jute on a statutory basis ; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposal in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). The recommendations made by the Agricultural Prices Commission on price policy for raw jute for the 1972-73 season are under consideration. Government's decisions in the matter are expected to be announced shortly.

Statutory Prices for Jute as Recommended by A.P.C.

6229. SHRI H. M. PATEL :
SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Agriculture Prices Commission has recommended minimum statutory prices for jute ; and

(b) if so, the prices recommended and the reaction of Government in this regard ?