

Revision of minimum Support Price for Raw Jute

300 SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :
SHRI B K DASCHRDHURY:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the cost of raw jute production ,

(b) if so, the details thereof and the method adopted for arriving at the said estimate ,

(c) whether his attention has been drawn to widespread resentment in West Bengal over the decision of Government to fix the minimum support price at Rs 115 ; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to make an upward revision of the minimum support price ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A C GEORGE) (a) and (b) On the basis of Farm Management Study carried out in Hooghly and 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal, the cost of production of raw jute was estimated at Rs 68.37 per quintal on account of total cost for the period 1955-56 and 1956-57. Another comprehensive study of cost of production of raw jute is expected to be taken up in 1973-74.

(c) No, Sir. The West Bengal Govt. had, however, suggested fixation of a higher minimum price.

(d) It is proposed to review the minimum prices after 2 months.

Notice of peaceful agitation from Pong Dam oustees

301. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR. Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a notice for a peaceful agitation has been received by Government from the Ousteers of the Pong Dam Area, and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B N KUREEL) (a) and (b). A notice for starting peaceful agitation was received in June, 1972 but this did not specify the demands. However, in an earlier communication dated 22nd October, 1971, from the Pong Dam Ousteers Committee Mangwal, certain demands were made. The more important of these demands relating to acquisition of land and payment of awarded amounts have since been largely fulfilled.

Working of Railway Out-Agencies in Himachal Pradesh

302. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state .

(a) whether a request has been received by Government to resume the working of Railway Out-Agencies in Himachal Pradesh, and

(b) if so, Government's decision in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T A PAI) (a) and (b). Presumably the question pertains to the out agencies at Gagret, Bharwain, Pragpur, Jwalamukhi Mandir and Nadaun in Himachal Pradesh which were closed in August, 1967. Requests have been received from the public for reopening these out agencies. This has not been possible because no contractor could be found to work the out agencies due to poor traffic prospects. However, the Mandi Kulu Road Transport Corporation have agreed to work the out agencies on an experimental basis. The matter is being pursued with the Corporation.

New Railway lines in hilly and backward areas

303. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to start new Railway lines in the hilly and backward areas of the country ;