

Setting up of a Committee for Price Equalisation System of Raw Cotton and Jute Bags

762. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been set up to go into the question of evolving a price equalisation system for raw cotton and containers, such as jute bags; and

(b) the composition of the Committee and when it is expected to start functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). It has been decided to set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Commerce) with a representative each of Ministry of Railways, Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Expenditure and State Governments concerned to go into the question of freight equalisation on the carriage of cotton. Adviser (Cotton) of the Office of the Textile Commissioner, Bombay and the Managing Director, Cotton Corporation of India are also members of the Committee. It will start functioning soon.

Smuggling of Goods from and to Bangladesh

763. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:
SHRI VEKARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of goods from India to Bangladesh and vice versa is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check to smuggling; and

(c) the value and nature of goods seized during the last 6 months, monthwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). There

is nothing to indicate that there is increase in the smuggling of goods from India to Bangladesh and vice versa. However, the following steps have been taken to prevent smuggling.—

(i) Frequent meetings between the various enforcement agencies are held to ensure mutual exchange of information and co-ordination for taking effective steps to prevent smuggling.

(ii) A crash programme for training officers engaged on anti-smuggling work has been introduced and officers are receiving training from time to time; and

(iii) Special intelligence unit in docks and at the air-port has been formed at Calcutta to thwart attempts of smuggling

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Specification of "Bits" and "Rags"

764. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the existing specifications of "bits" and "rags"; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir, the specifications of rags and fents for the purpose of markings on every bale or other packages of controlled and non-controlled cloth under the Cotton Textile (Control) Order, 1948 has been modified recently.

(b) As in the statement enclosed.