

**Compromise on Jute between India and European Common Market countries**

3384. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Compromise on Jute, laboriously negotiated between India and the European Commission in May this year is not likely to be performed and adhered to by the E.C.M. countries;

(b) if so, what development have since followed in this regard and what objections have been raised to the performance thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction to these developments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise. Following the negotiations held with the EEC in Brussels from 21st to 23rd May 1973 some understandings in regard to tariff and other concessions have been reached for the import of Jute goods from India by the EEC. The Agreement incorporating these understandings is being finalised.

**Construction of Youth Hostels**

3385. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have sanctioned the construction of 16 youth Hostels in the country;

(b) whether these Hostels will be constructed in State Capitals or in those towns and cities which have more Universities;

(c) whether Uttar Pradesh has been allotted one hostel or more than one keeping in view its biggest youth population;

(d) whether Varanasi city having three Universities, more than any other city in the Capital, will have any youth Hostel; and

(e) if so, the reasons for ignoring the claim?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. With the objective of encouraging both domestic and foreign youth travel, the Department of Tourism has formulated a scheme for the construction of Youth Hostels at 17 centres. Financial sanction has been issued in respect of 16 Youth Hostel projects, some of which are already completed and the remaining are at various stages of construction. The selection of the Centres has been made with due regard to the special interests of students in archaeology, trekking, mountaineering, modern architecture, beaches, etc. and include State Capitals and University towns.

(c) One Youth Hostel at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.47 lakhs is under construction at Nainital.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise, as the number of Universities located in a particular city is not the sole criterion for its selection as a Youth Hostel Centre. It is understood, however, that the State Government is considering the possibility of setting up a Youth Hostel in Varanasi in the Fifth Plan.

**Special Assistance sought by Madhya Pradesh for completion of works in Drought-Affected Areas**

3386. SHRI DHANSHAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh has requested the Central Government for special assistance outside the plan for completion of works in drought-affected areas; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.