

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHR K R. GANESH): Administrative and legislative measures taken from time to time regarding tax evasion, apply equally to big and small cases. In particular, recent measures such as spot assessment scheme, summary assessment scheme, mass communication programme and increased accent on survey are all intended to bring to tax such income.

**Purchase of Inadequate quantity of Jute by Jute Corporation of India**

4322. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether while the support of price of Jute has been fixed between Rs. 40 and 50, its cost of production per maund comes to around Rs. 72;

(b) whether out of 78 lakh maunds of Jute necessary to feed the Jute industry, the Jute Corporation of India purchases only around 4 lakh maunds of jute while the rest is purchased by private traders at very low rates around Rs. 40 per maund and this jute enters the mills at around Rs. 70 per maund;

(c) if so, the reasons for the low procurement by the Jute Corporation of India and the vast scope of black-marketing allowed to the middlemen; and

(d) the present investment in the Jute Corporation of India and the steps proposed to be taken to make it broad based and to augment its field of activities, with a view to increasing its procurement and preventing exploitation of the growers by middlemen?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Support price of jute is generally fixed on the re-

commendations of the Agriculture Prices Commission. The cost of production of jute has been variously estimated and the Directorate of Jute Development had given a figure ranging between Rs. 20 and 26 per maund.

(b) The Jute Corporation of India plans to purchase during the current year 10 to 12 lakh bales as commercial purchases and also conduct price support operations in all primary and secondary markets, the total of which would be around 30 per cent of the total produce. This will also discourage purchases by private traders at very low rates.

(c) The Jute Corporation has already expanded its scale operations and propose to further expand on the basis of experience gained. This will result in reducing the scope for blackmarketing.

(d) The present share capital of Jute Corporation has already drawn Jute Corporation has already drawn up plans for substantial expansion of its activities and will progressively take over the purchase operations of raw jute.

**Retail shops for Sale of Controlled Cloth**

4323. SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail shops opened by cloth mills in the country for the sale of controlled cloth, state-wise; and

(b) the percentage of production of controlled cloth to the total cloth production by the mills during the past three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). A statement is attached.