

ries, They have in particular tendered for the following 2 major projects:—

Name of the Project	Estimated Cost	Participating Companies
Shipyards Project at Basra	Rs. 60 crores	National Projects Const. Corpn. and National Bldg. Const. Corpn.
Dry Dock Project in Bahrain	Rs. 200 crores	National Projects Const. Corpn., National Bldg. Const. Corpn. and Richardson and Cruddas.

#### Higher Statutory Minimum Price for Raw Jute

9401 SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has urged the Ministry of Agriculture for a higher statutory minimum price for raw jute as the price fixed by Agricultural Prices Commission is inadequate; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Agricultural Prices Commission has submitted its report on price policy for jute for 1975-76 season and the recommendations are under examination of the Government.

#### Raw Jute Economy

9402. Prof. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the raw jute economy is facing a crisis due to credit squeeze seriously hampering the large scale purchases by the Jute Corporation of India and steep fall in the prices of jute; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to meet the crisis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Jute Corporation of India's purchase operation in the current jute season had to be pruned down due to a short crop and restraint on credit. The prices of raw jute have by and large remained above the statutory minimum level prescribed by the Government. Efforts are under-way for effecting increases in the quantity of raw jute to be purchased by the J. C. I. in the next season

#### Non-availability of Nylon Yarn for Nylon Fabrics Industry

9403 SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nylon fabrics industry is facing difficulty as a result of the serious shortage of nylon yarn this year;

(b) if so, the total estimated requirements of nylon yarn and its availability from indigenous sources, and

(c) the quantity of nylon yarn proposed to be imported during the current year and the foreign exchange allocation therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). The estimated requirement of nylon yarn was approximately

16,000 tonnes in the year 1973 when the indigenous production was 11,350 tonnes. Though production during the year 1974-75 is almost of the same order, there is no serious shortage of nylon yarn because of sluggish market conditions. Given normal market condition, the estimated requirement for nylon yarn would be more or less equivalent to total indigenous capacity for nylon yarn i.e., 18,210 tonnes.

(c) There is no proposal to import nylon yarn during the current year for domestic consumption. However, import of nylon yarn would be allowed under the Import Policy for Registered Exporters and no separate allocation of foreign exchange has been made for this purpose.

#### Trade Agreements between India and Iraq

9404. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade agreement between India and Iraq has been beneficial to India;

(b) the number of trade agreements concluded so far with Iraq and items covered thereby; and

(c) whether India's export to Iraq has been increasing and if so, of which items?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is only one Trade Agreement between India and Iraq which is current. This Agreement was concluded at New Delhi on the 24th September, 1971. Items covered by this Agreement are given in the enclosed Lists A&B. However, the Agreement does not preclude trade in goods not mentioned in these Lists laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-9742/75]

(c) Yes, Sir. The main items, export of which have registered an increase in 1973-74 are tea, Iron and Steel, machinery and transport equipment, Veneer and Plywood boards, coffee, manufactures of metals, articles of rubber, spices, chemical elements and compounds, cotton manufactures, iron ore and concentrates etc.

#### Population per Bank Office in Lakhimpur District, Assam

9405. SHRI TUNA ORAON;  
SHRI SAKTI KUMAR  
SARKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether population per bank office in Lakhimpur district of Assam is 142,000 as compared to 30,000 for the country as a whole;

(b) if so, the particulars of population per bank office in Eastern and North-Eastern Region States, district-wise as in July 1972 and now, with the name of branch office in these States, Bank-wise and district-wise; and

(c) the nature of the measures undertaken by his Ministry to bring these rural districts to the national average of the population and the bank offices, State-wise, district-wise and Bank-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). District-wise data regarding the number of offices of commercial banks and average population per bank office, as on 31st December, 1972 and 31st December, 1974, in the States of Eastern and North Eastern Regions are set out in the Annexure. Information relating to branches centre-wise, Bank-wise and district-wise is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-9745/75.]