

(d) whether Government intend to institute an enquiry into the whole affair and start proceedings against parties who have been responsible of cheating Government?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). Imports of jute and mesta were covered by Open General Licence during the period from 13th July, 1966 to 31st March, 1967, for jute mills only. Mills were free to make purchases and arrange for imports. Government have no definite information whether purchases were made from Indian parties acting as principals.

(c) and (d). Government are not aware of any leakage of foreign exchange or of cheating on this account. The question of holding an enquiry does not arise.

Import of Jute from Thailand

1972. Shri Kameshwar Singh:
Shri Gheopujan Shastri:
Shri A. B. Vajpayee:
Shri Rabi Ray:
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Manoharan:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import licences were issued to the jute mills in the last two or three years for importing jute from Thailand;

(b) if so, the total quantity and value of these imports per year;

(c) whether it is a fact that re-purchase was allowed of the quantities purchased by the jute mills and registered with the Jute Controller, Calcutta in respect of these imports;

(d) if so, the names of the parties/firms which were given permission to purchase the quantity on the ground that the parties through whom original quantity was purchased have delayed shipment or defaulted;

(e) the total quantity and value of these purchases; and

(f) the difference in value between the original purchase and the re-purchase sanctioned by Government?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Licences were issued to jute mills for import of jute/mesta from all permissible destinations (including Thailand). Imports were under Open General Licence with effect from 13th July, 1966 to 31st March, 1967.

(b) The quantity and value of imports of mesta from Thailand during 1964-65 and 1965-66 were as under:

	Quantity (‘000’ bales)	Value (Rs. lakh)
1964-65	23.3	43
1965-66	889.4	1590

(c) No, Sir. Mills were free to make purchases. Government did not exercise any control over the purchases nor was there any stipulation for registering the purchases with Jute Commissioner.

(d) to (f). Do not arise.

Steel Industries

1973. Shri G. C. Jha: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are more steel industries in the private sector than in the public sector; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) It is presumed that the Question refers to integrated steel plants producing mild steel. At present there are six such plants in the country. Out of these, two plants, namely, Tata Iron & Steel Co. and Indian Iron & Steel Co., with an annual capacity of 3 million ingot tonnes, are in the private sector. As against this, there are 4 plants namely, Rourkela, Bhilai, Durgapur and Mysore