

Purchase of Jute by S. T. C.

1762. SHRI RANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of raw jute purchased by the State Trading Corporation during the year 1967-68 and from April to June 1968 together with the purchase price per maund;

(b) whether it is a fact that on account of fluctuation in the prices of raw jute, the jute growers have suffered a loss of Rs. 20 per maund during the year 1967-68;

(c) whether Government have fixed the floor and ceiling prices of raw jute for the year 1968-69; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI KURESHI): (a) The S.T.C. has purchased a total quantity of 3,71,115 maunds of jute from different States. The purchase price is the derivative price for each secondary market based on the minimum support price of Rs. 40 per md. for the bottom grade of Assam variety of jute delivered at Calcutta.

(b) Government are not aware of this, Sir.

(c) and (d). The Government have fixed the minimum support price for Raw jute for 1968-69 at the same level as for 1967-68 viz. Rs. 40/- per maund (Rs. 107.17 per quintal). No ceiling prices have been fixed.

Missing of Consignment of Ammonium Phosphate Despatched from Madras Harbour Station

1763. SHRI S. A. AGADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a con-

signment of 960 bags of Ammonium Phosphate despatched from Madras Harbour Railway Station on the 25th September, 1967 to Koppal, South Central Railway, District Raichur, Mysore State, disappeared from the Booking Station and never reached the destination;

(b) if so, the action taken to trace this missing consignment;

(c) whether any claim has been made for the payment of cost; and

(d) if so, the amount of claim and at what stage the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b). From the reports so far received, it appears that this consignment of 960 bags of ammonium phosphate was misdirected to a different station and delivered there to the Block Development Officer.

(c) The consignee has preferred a claim.

(d) The amount claimed is Rs. 37,699.20. The claim is being processed.

Liberalised Licensing Policy

1764. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the liberalised licensing policy of Government, diversification into fields, reserved for the public sector under Schedule "A" of the Industrial Policy Resolution has been permitted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how far the liberalised licensing policy has affected the public sector, if at all, and how far it has helped the private sector?