

[ Shri L N Misra ]

growing areas I have, therefore, some thing to do with jute-growers I was one of the office-bearers of the jute-growers' organisation for a number of years, and I know the plight of the jute-growers and how they have been exploited so far by a chain of middlemen in the secondary markets, primary markets and so on. The plight of jute-growers in Bihar is much worse than that even in West Bengal. If you go to Motihari, Darbhanga, Saharsa and Purnea, and see the fate of the jute-growers, you will see how worse it is. I know their problems and I want to help them. I must make it clear here that we are just making a beginning of the operation and a time will come when the entire domestic trade, domestic price and domestic purchase of jute will be taken over by the Jute Corporation of India.

At the moment, we are proposing to do the following. Government have decided to fix a statutory minimum support price for jute. The prices will be fixed even for the secondary and primary markets and for all the varieties and not only for the Assam bottom. The Jute Corporation of India is taking a number of steps for organizing purchase operations in the coming year. In the beginning, about six lakhs bales would be purchased as against only a few thousands purchased last year. It would be the endeavour of the Jute Corporation to see that larger arrivals of jute do not have any depressing effect on the prices and excess supplies are siphoned off.

Purchases would be made through departmental purchase centres, co-operative societies where viable ones are functioning and also through private agents where these agencies are not available, where they do not exist. This is a temporary arrangement, if we start departmental purchasing agencies, they will disappear automatically. Adequate warehousing arrangements would also be made for storing jute. In this direction steps have already been taken and space has already been booked with State and Central Warehousing Corporations. Buffer stock operations are also expected to be undertaken by the Corporation. We have also a proposal before us to set up new jute mills in different States and the dispersal of the jute mills will assure better price to the growers in Bihar, Assam, Orisa, Tripura and Andhra. It is with this end in view that a

proposal to establish one-jute-mill each in the States mentioned, is being actively considered and the Government decision is expected to be announced very shortly. This would go a long way in assuring jute growers of these States better price for their produce and for increased production and yield of jute. I am confident of the fact that all these operations would serve the larger objective of protecting the interest of the long neglected jute growers. (Interruptions) So far as the export of jute goods is concerned, we had a big jump this year; as against an export of about Rs 189 crores last year, this year, 1971-72, our export has been of the order of Rs 300 crores.

Last year when we entered the cotton market, people said that we would not succeed. Now people are saying that we have done a good job in cotton because the Cotton Corporation of India entered the domestic market. Similarly we felt that when the jute corporation of India enters the jute market and makes departmental purchases, it will be to protect the interest of the jute growers.

SHRI B K DASCHOWDHURY: What is the cost of production per acre? Has he calculated it?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Kindly tell us what has happened to the jute enquiry committee which was set up by the UP Government to look into the grievance of the jute growers.

SHRI L N MISHRA: I am not aware of the misdeed and good deeds of the UP Government.

18 34½

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
THIRTEENTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND  
TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BHADUR): Sir, I  
beg to present the Thirteenth Report of the  
Business Advisory Committee.

18 35 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of  
the Clock on Thursday, May, 25 1972|Jaistha  
4, 1894 (Saka)*