

reinforced in terms of man-power and equipment. In addition, the trend and pattern of smuggling are kept under constant review and appropriate anti-smuggling measure, both short-term and long-term, are taken in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities.

Uniform Pay Scales and Service Conditions in Nationalised Banks

*255. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been able to fulfil their assurance of introducing uniform pay scale and service conditions in various nationalised banks after fifteen years of their nationalisation; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not introducing uniform pay scales and service conditions for different categories of employees and officers in all the nationalised banks even after such a long time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b). The workmen and officer staff of all the 20 nationalised banks have uniform pay scales, allowances and service conditions.

As between the 20 nationalised banks and the State Bank of India, in view of certain special features obtaining in State Bank of India, there are differences in the matter of pay, allowances and other benefits. The seven Associate Banks of State Bank of India, however, have the same pay scales, allowances and other service conditions as the nationalised banks.

[English]

Closing of Jute Mills due to Shortage of Raw Jute

*256. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : SHRI INDRJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE

AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the jute mill owners of Calcutta are closing down jute mills with the plea of shortage of raw jute and consequently 50,000 workers of 12 jute mills are out of work;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the "shortage" is being artificially created by cornering raw jute stocks by black-money operators in conjunction with unscrupulous jute mill owners;

(c) whether Government are also aware that various trade unions including AITUC and CITU in West Bengal have demanded that the Union Government should issue immediate instructions to the jute mill owners to open the mills and in case of their failure to comply, take over such jute mills; and

(d) if so, reactions of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) The reason put forward generally for recent closure of jute mills is industrial dispute. The shortage of raw jute, coupled with its high prices and financial stringency of mills are reported to be contributory factors for such closure. At present 14 jute mills in West Bengal affecting about 50,200 workers are closed (excluding 3 permanently closed mills) out of which 11 mills have closed down from the beginning of 1985, affecting about 42,400 workers.

(b) As a result of four successive short jute crops, there is a shortage of raw jute in the country.

(c) and (d) A statement is attached.

Statement

In a resolution adopted in the meeting of Central Executive Committee of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union held on 16th February, 1985 and also in the Tripartite meeting held under the Chairmanship of Labour Minister, Govern-