

of ration to the people, but we should also ensure supply of quality grains to the people. I thought that in the States the quality of grains was not good but even in Delhi, it is so; my experience is that in the past some weeks the quality of rice given in the ration shops varies. Will the Government ensure good quality of wheat and rice for the consumers ?

SHRI A. K. PANJA : It is true we have received some complaints regarding bad quality given to the consumers through the retailers. That is why wherever we have received such complaints, it is for the State Government, after taking it from the FCI godowns to take action.

(Interruption) In Delhi also, same is the case. The Delhi Administration takes it from the ECI and gives it to the retailers. So far as the Government is concerned and FCI is concerned, we have told the States that let there be a joint inspection at the time of taking delivery from the FCI godowns and thereafter it is the duty of the State Government or the local administration to see that that quality which has been approved and taken delivery of actually reaches the consumers, that is, the end users. That is the responsibility of the Administration. But we are not keeping ourselves aloof from it. We are repeatedly issuing instructions that (a) there must be joint inspection, (b) there must be surprise checks by the State Government Authorities and (c) the entire machinery for taking action against any defaulting party is with the State Government. Wherever anything is coming to our notice we are immediately sending our own team to have inspection of the fact reported either in the newspapers; or by the hon. Member and thereafter taking steps accordingly.

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH : I would like to know from the hon. Minister as F.C.I. is supplying wheat and rice to the various States as per the allotment the Central Government and there are two systems at present existing in this country, one is through the State agency and the other is the one which is existing in Kerala and West Bengal—which system is better and why we are not implementing only one system

throughout the country.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : Sir, our idea is to enforce one system and that is why besides West Bengal and Kerala, one system is being followed. The infrastructure required, the law enforcement machinery and also the powers are with the State Governments by giving conscious delegated power. But so far as West Bengal is concerned, we wrote several times to the Government of West Bengal to take up the distribution to the retailers. We have not yet received any favourable reply.

Closure of jute mills

*567. **SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :**

SHRI KUNWAR RAM :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardship of jute farmers in certain State following a steep fall in jute prices and the closure of several jute mills, rendering thousands of workers jobless;

(b) if so, whether any representations have been received by Government in this regards;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d) A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) It is true that raw jute prices have touched minimum support level during the current jute season 1985-86 mainly due to harvesting of a bumper jute crop but this has not resulted in closure of jute mills. On the other hand, with raw material prices coming down substantially, a number of those jute mills, which remained under closure during the first half of 1985 due to tight supply position and high

raw jute prices in the country, have reopened gradually.

(b) to (d) There have been representations from time to time about fall in raw jute prices. With a view to preventing distress sales of raw jute and to protect the interests of jute growers, the following steps have taken by the Govt :—

- (i) Announcement of minimum statutory price of raw jute and mesta;
- (ii) Expansion of market coverage both by the Jute Corporation of India and State Co-operatives;
- (iii) Enlargement of storage capacity;
- (iv) Full manning of purchase centres through recruitment of additional hands;
- (v) Sanction of credit on 'as required' basis by the Reserve Bank of India for undertaking price support operation.
- (vi) Issue of directive on 6.9.85 by Jute Commissioner to all working jute mills in the private sector to build up a stocks of raw jute up to specified levels so as to step up purchases of raw jute by jute mills;
- (vii) Grant of permission to Jute Corporation of India to export raw jute;
- (viii) Use of mass media by Jute Corporation of India to advise the farmers not to make distress sale of their produce at prices below the statutory minimum to unscrupulous traders and bring their produce to JCI/Co-operative purchase centres.
- (ix) Record purchase of over 27 lakh bales of raw jute by the Jute Corporation of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Sethi, you can put your supplementary.

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :
I have no Supplementary to put.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

**Reported bungling by travel agents
under foreign travel scheme**

*556. **SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4904 on 20 December, 1985 regarding news item captioned 'Foreign Exchange Racket Detected' and state :

(a) whether Government have conducted an enquiry into the cases of bungling done by some travel agents under Foreign Travel Scheme ;

(b) if so, whether the report of this enquiry has been received by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against the concerned persons on the basis of this report ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) :** (a) and (b)
Yes, Sir.

(c) The report of the Investigating Officer indicates prima-facie that Shri Kundan Singh has been buying and selling foreign exchange in an unauthorised manner exploiting the Foreign Travel Scheme.

(d) Adjudication proceedings have been commenced against Shri Kundan Singh by issuance of Show Cause Notice on 7.2.86 for violation of the provisions of Sec. 8(1) & 8(2) of F.E.R. Act, 1973 for U.S. \$ 3,47,248, £ 32,137 and Canadian \$ 3,061. The adjudication proceedings are in progress.

Investigations are also in progress in respect of S/Shri Charanjit Singh, Prem Chand, Tarsem Singh and