

[English]

### Working of Coffee Board

\*180. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Growers assail working of Coffee Board" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' of 30th October, 1985;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a note of the threat of the Karnataka Planters' Association; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to ease the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). Coffee Board as presently constituted provides balanced representation to the various interests, connected with the coffee industry. The Board has succeeded in ensuring more remunerative and steady returns to the coffee growers as compared to other Agricultural Commodities. It has also optimized foreign exchange earnings and ensured steady domestic prices. Experts are expected to go up from 67,000 tonnes last year to 97,000 tonnes. Domestic release have also been increased.

### Jute Farmer of West Bengal facing Economic Hardship due to low price of Jute

1709. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had ignored the demand of the West Bengal Jute farmers for a minimum price of Rs. 800/- per quintal of raw jute with the result that the farmers were in 'deep distress'; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps Government propose to take to relieve them of their present economic hardships ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (b). With the harvesting of a bumper crop of raw jute this season, prices have declined in almost all upcountry markets. For protecting the interests of jute growers, Government has announced the minimum statutory price of raw jute for 1985-86 season, on the basis of the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. The Jute Corporation of India has undertaken price support operation on a larger scale than ever before. The Jute Corporation of India is also using mass media to advise the farmers not to make distress sale at prices below the statutory minimum to unscrupulous traders and bring their produce to JCI/Co-operative purchase centres.

### Demand of Steel for Small Scale Units from 1980 to 1985

1710. SHRI MATILAL HANSDA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise demand for steel for small-scale industrial units in tonnes, year-wise, from 1980-81 to 1984-85;

(b) the State-wise allotment year-wise during the same period; and

(c) the State-wise actual distribution year-wise during the same period ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The demand for iron and steel is not assessed State-wise. SSI units obtain iron and steel through State Small Scale Industries Corporations, the stockyards of main producers and also directly from the plants.

(b) and (c). The allocations made by the Iron and Steel Controller to Small Scale Industries Corporations and the actual supplies made by the main producers during the period 1980-81 to 1984-85 are given in the statement given below.