

resolution last year recommending to the Government for its nationalisation.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, we have received a lot of representations. The hon. Member has met me a number of times on this issue. And no decision has been taken so far.

Solution to Ethnic Violence in Sri Lanka

***64. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:
SHRI KAMAL NATH :**

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent incidents of outbreak of violence in some areas of Sri Lanka endangering the security of minorities of Indian origin there;

(b) if so, whether any new steps have been taken by Government to help the Government of Sri Lanka to solve the problem of ethnic violence in that country; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Sri Lanka Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government continue to firmly believe that the longstanding ethnic problem in Sri Lanka can be resolved only politically, and not militarily. Government are in touch with the Sri Lankan Government.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Export of Jute Products

***65. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND SUPPLY** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to export more jute products this year than the previous years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantity to be exported ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). The export of jute goods during April-September 1984 was worth Rs. 141.01 crores as compared to Rs. 90.77 crores during the same period of 1983. It is expected that export of jute goods during financial year 1984-85 is likely to be around 275.00 tonnes valued at over Rs. 300 crores compared to the level of 233.500 tonnes valued at Rs. 163.71 crores achieved during 1983-84. However, as a result of high prices of raw jute, the cost of production of jute goods have also risen sharply making it difficult for exporters to compete in overseas markets by offering competitive prices. Besides, there is severe competition from the synthetics and other producing countries in the international market.

Reduction in Upper Age Limit for Recruitment to Civil Services

***66. SHRI BHOLA RAUT :** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the upper age limit for Civil Services recruitment by U.P.S.C. has been reduced from 28 years to 26 years ;

(b) whether the age limit was enhanced from 26 years to 28 years by U.P.S.C. in 1979 ; and

(c) if so what action Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of candidates eligible within the age ceiling of years ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) to (c). In 1979 while introducing the new scheme for Civil Services Examination, Government raised the upper age limit from 26 years, to 28 years though the Kothari Committee as well as the Union Public Service