

being done. In Barmer a systematic mapping is being done.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

What is the use of it ? I have also got the information that systematic mapping and study are in progress. How will it satisfy you ? I am not satisfied by it. I do not have more information with me.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Expedite the investigations.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As soon as we know something more than the systematic mapping, I will be able to give full information.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The hon. Minister is not supposed to refer to the officers' box.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I had the right to get information from my Assistants. I believe you don't at least deny that. I am saying that intensive survey of all our mineral resources in this country must be made and whichever resources are found, are capable of commercial exploitation, we must use them for our national use. I am very keen to do that. I can assure, through you, Sir, the House that we shall do this.

[Translation]

MR- SPEAKER : I feel that Shri Viridhi Chander had been dominating till now.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Till now, Mr. Jain was dominating. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that investigations are going on in respect of some mineral deposits about their quality. There are large reserves of magnesite and limestone in U.P. also. Mining work is going on thereunder the open cast mining system. Miners do not undertake the work of reclaiming the land left out after the mining. It is adversely affecting the eco-system there. In order to control it, there should not be open cast mining system. Instead, there should be an underground mining and it should be made a part of land reclamation. What action do Government propose to take in this regard ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is a very pertinent question. We are also worried about it. Ecological balance is getting disturbed in the Himalayan region particularly because of mining work which includes felling of trees also. It is of great concern. It is largely the duty of the State Government to enact legislation for the protection of the ecological system. We are also looking into the matter.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : A survey was conducted to find out zinc deposits in the 2 Sq. km area in Rampura-Agucha. The largest deposits of zinc were found there. As per the information available, there are deposits of zinc in the entire area of about 40 Sq. kms upto Shahpura. Your department has also made a survey in this regard. Is it a fact that there are rich deposits of zinc and rock phosphate in the entire area ? Would a detailed survey be carried out in this regard and action taken to set up industries based on them. ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Certainly, we shall take action. Rich deposits of zinc have been found in the Agucha area.. We are trying our best to see how best we can utilise zinc and lead.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : I had said that there is 40 Sq. kms of area.....(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Wherever it is available, we will make full utilisation of it. Why only in 40 Sq. kms., we shall do so even if it is available in an area of 100 Sq. kms.

[English]

Purchase and Sale of Raw Jute by Jute Corporation of India

***514 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of raw jute purchased by Jute Corporation of India in 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 and the price thereof ;

(b) the total quantity of raw jute sold in the market by Jute Corporation in those years ; and

(c) the procurement target for the same in 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES
(SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the

Table of the House.

(c) No procurement target for jute year 1985-86 (July-June has yet been fixed by the Jute Corporation of India.

Statement

(a) The total quantity of raw jute purchased by Jute Corporation of India in 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 and purchase price thereof is as under :—

Year (July—June)	Quantity purchased by JCI including through Coopera- tives. (Lakh bales of 180 Kgs. each)	Purchase price of JCI at upcountry markets (Price in Rs. per quintal)	
		Ex-South Bengal (TD-5)	Ex-Assam (W-5)
1982-83	8.60	204.50	175.00
		to	to
1983-84	8.39	229.50	185.00
		to	to
1984-85	10.16	275.00	245.00
		325.00	285.00
		650.00	575.00
		to	to
		950.00	920.00

(b) The total quantity of raw jute sold by Jute Corporation of India during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 is as under :—

Year (July-June)	Quantity of raw jute sold by JCI		
	Domestic market		Export market
	Indian Jute	Imported Jute	Indian Jute
1982-83	20.45*	—	0.72
1983-84	8.10	—	—
1984-85 (up to 31.3.85)	10.16	1.60	—

*Including stock B/F from earlier years.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :
Sir, in the Statement it has been mentioned that in the last year, 1984-85, the Jute Corporation of India procured only 10.16 lakh bales of jute. The total requirement of the jute industry is 82 lakh bales ; three lakh bales are imported and 79 lakh bales procured from the indigenous market. What was the original objective of the Jute Corporation of India ? Was it not to procure sufficient quantity of jute so as to avoid scarcity in the market, which is man made, and which

has recently led to closure of a number of mills in West Bengal ? Will the Minister ensure that in future the Jute Corporation of India will expand its infrastructure so as to procure at lost fifty per cent of the total requirements of the jute mills in the country ?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH:
The original objective of the Jute Corporation has been to protect the interests of the jute growers primarily. Later on, it was also given the responsibility of export

and import of raw jute and enter into commercial operations on behalf of NJMA, and still later on for private mills also on a back to back arrangement. The original objective remains the same and that is to give price support to the growers. It cannot be said that a new price structure should be developed and infrastructure expanded so that Jute Corporation is able to procure at least fifty per cent of the jute available in the market. In fact, we are concerned that the present infrastructure is not being fully utilised. The market conditions are such that the prices are much higher than the support price and the price support operations are not called upon. Those in the purchase centres remain almost idle ; they have not much work to do. In a situation where the prices crash and price support operations are to be carried on a larger scale, then alone it can be considered.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Already because of the raw jute prices in West Bengal more than 16 jute mills have been closed down resulting in unemployment of three lakh people directly belonging to North India, not only West Bengal. This has been the subject of a calling attention also. A deputation has also met you. In view of this, I would like to know, if the Minister will consider it an urgent matter of national importance for the economy of the country, visit West Bengal, and meet the State Government to find out a suitable wayout to reopen the jute mills and ensure supply of raw jute ?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : The House will recollect the discussion that took place on a calling attention motion regarding the closure of jute mills in West Bengal. I promised this House that I would take initiative in this matter and would convene a meeting of the State Government, JMA representatives, and workers' representatives. I immediately wrote to the State Government and asked for an assessment from their end. They had a meeting on 26-2-1985. I have learnt that they have convened a tripartite meeting today or tomorrow and I shall be receiving an assessment from their end within a day or two. As soon as I get that, I shall take immediate steps to see whether a meeting can be called here or at Calcutta, and proper steps taken to reopen the jute

mills in West Bengal. It is a matter of serious concern for all of us.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : In view of the long term problems, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is considering the question of canalising raw jute trade. The other day in the Calling Attention, he had no time to reply it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : This is not immediately under the consideration of the Government. I explained it the other day,

[Translation]

SHRI D.L. BAITHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir it has been said that prices of jute are increasing because of its scarcity. I would like to inform you that the reason for the pitiable condition of jute growers is that when there is a bumper crop, its prices come down and when there is less production, its prices go up. Hence, the situation is getting worse. Do Government propose to take some measures under which the growers may produce as much jute as is sufficient for domestic consumption as well as for export purposes so that they may not face any difficulty ?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Every year the support price is fixed in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture. Government try to ensure that the jute growers get not only the support price but remunerative price also. It will be kept in view for the future also.

[English]

Writing Off of Income Tax Arrears

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*516, **SHRI AMAL DATTA :**
SHRI SAIFUEDIN CHOWDHURY ;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Income Tax arrears amounting to Rs. 345 crores have been written off during 1982-83 which include Rs. 152 crores from various companies ;

(b) if so, the details of the companies whose tax arrears have been written off ;

(c) the reasons for such action by the Income Tax Department ; and

(d) who authorised such writing off ?