

not going to get it. You promise that it will be given; but, by the time you give this, 50 per cent of the workers will die. You have given assurance that they will be compensated and rehabilitated. What happened to that assurance? When the people would have died, whom are you going to give the compensation? And now, Sir, the nationalised mills are doing it with new machinery. And I am putting a categorical question. Now the contracts have started, I have got about 7 cases where the contracts are there. In hand with the union and the Government they are having contracts, so, this is the fate of the textile workers in the city. My 2 questions are these: How soon will the compensation be paid and the contracts stopped? Then the third thing is, when they will be rehabilitated and compensated.

AN HON MEMBER: There should be Half-an-Hour discussion on this.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: As far as the question of gratuity is concerned, the gratuity has been paid to the workers and the amount paid so far is about Rs 9 crores and the gratuity has been paid also for the total length of their service even before take-over.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. The Minister has already stated while replying to the question of Shri Murlidhara Deora that when the mills have been nationalised, those benefits which would have accrued to them, would not be available to the workers in these 13 mills which are already taken over. Now, Sir, is it not a fact that if you take such an attitude, unfortunately and unnecessarily, an anti-nationalisation attitude will be developed and that will be harmful to the general policies of the Government? So, in view of this, will you revise that attitude and not discriminate between the workers of the nationalised mills and the workers in other mills?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, there is no question of discrimination. But, there has to be a cut-off year and cut-off time for the payment of this compensation.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question, No.22-Shri Narayana Chaubey.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: You kindly help me, Sir. My question is on Jute and the answer is not fully **nor is it fully true.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: It is unparliamentary.

(Interruptions)

It should be expunged. It is unparliamentary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: I think he is expecting to be included in the Cabinet. Hence he is over-worried! The answer is like this. I remember a Bengali poem.

*Ekhan theke marlam teer,
Laglo Kala gachche,
Jharjhareya rakto parre,
Chokh galo re baba*

"I throw an arrow from this place;
It hits a plantain tree;
Blood starts flowing continuously;
Oh, my Father, I lose my eye,"

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Let the answer be given by the Minister. The Question itself has not been put. He has to put the question first.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have understood the question as well as the answer.

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: All right. I put the question now. Q No.22.

Import of P.V.C. Granule

*22. **SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import P.V.C. granule, a raw material for manufacturing synthetic bags;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof; and

(c) the effect of these import on the jute industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The import of P.V.C. granules is already under OGL. Its import can be made under Open General Licence by Actual Users (Industrial) subject to Actual User condition, and Export Houses/Trading Houses against REP/Additional Licences as per policy for sale to Actual User (Industrial), subject to actual condition.

P.V.C. granules are not normally used in our country for the manufacture of synthetic bags.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Sir, what I stated, I will not re-state, I will not repeat.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to tell Shri Choubey, that the question has been put by Narayan and it has been answered by Brahma (Almightly); it should be noted that Brahma never tells lies.

[*English*]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: What I beg to submit is *(Interruptions)*.

I put the question like this. We are in a great shortage of foreign exchange. Already my country has suffered to the tune of nearly Rs. 8000 crores deficit in the matter of foreign exchange and even then we are importing. I want to get the figure from the Minister to find out as to what is the amount of import of these PVC granules and if you are saying that you are not normally using this for synthetic bags, then what are you normally using for making synthetic bags? What other things you are

making use of to produce synthetic bags normally and what is the cost of importing these granules in those last two years?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, I have got the figures of production of PVC granules. In 1983 it was like 42,211 tonnes, in 1984 it was 75,599 tonnes and in 1985 it was 98,413 tonnes, and generally pipes are made out of this, not sacks.

About the second question, HDPE (High Density Polyethene) ethylene polythene is used for the manufacture of bags and actually a very small amount of bags required in the country are manufactured out of that.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Sir, I have not got the proper answer.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Sir, apart from polyethelene, poly propilene is also used for the purpose of these synthetics.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: In the jute industry in West Bengal we are facing a big crisis and many of jute mills are being closed down. The Government have given a reply that they are importing these granules because the cost of raw jute has gone higher in the year 1984 and hence, since you have got no market, you have been inducting synthetics to produce bags in place of jute bags. Now the stage is over. The Government themselves accept that now the stage is over and very recently our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had been to West Bengal and he had given the assurance that whatever jute is produced in the State of West Bengal would be bought by the JCI. Here, all these things came out in the press. But to our bad luck the Chairman of the JCI has said that he has not received such an order as yet and perhaps our Minister of Agriculture Shri Kamal Guha, said that the amount of jute that will be bought by the JCI could be perhaps lesser than what they bought last year. May I put the question to our hon. Minister whether the statement or the categorical assurance given by our Prime Minister that all the jute grown in West Bengal would be bought by the JCI will be honoured and if so, what infrastructure has

been laid by the Government to buy the jute from the market which has started coming. Just now?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Sir, the internal consumption of jute goods is increasing in the country. In 1970-71 it was about 5.20 lakh tonnes and in 1984-85 it has come to 10.35 lakh tonnes. Internally, the consumption is increasing. But as far as exports are concerned, they have fallen because of the competition from synthetic bags, and the Government has taken a lot of steps—financial, fiscal and administrative steps—and promotional steps also to secure the interests of the jute producers, and everything will be done to honour the assurance given, if any, by the Prime Minister.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : What do you mean by 'if any'?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Everything will be done ..

(Interruptions).

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Let me first say that I did not say that we will buy all the jute that is grown in West Bengal. I said, 'We will buy whatever jute is offered for sale to JCI'. There is a difference. We will buy it at the support price and we will stand by that commitment.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Assurance has been given....

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : That is why I said, 'offered to the JCI'

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You did not say about JCI....

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I said, 'Jute Corporation'.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You said that JCI would purchase all the jute that is produced in West Bengal.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I said, JCI, the Jute Corporation. *(Interruptions.)* Who is going to buy? I am not going to buy there. JCI is going to buy obviously. *(Interruptions.)* Of course, our machinery for buying jute is JCI. We are not going to get the Food Corporation to buy jute. *(Interruptions.)* I do not know what complication there is. *(Interruptions.)*

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I have said very clearly and I will reiterate here now... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is a question of common sense. There is nothing much to be discussed on this thing. It is only a question of who buys and through which agency it is bought. So simple it is.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : JCI.

MR. SPEAKER : Maybe JCI.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will stand by the statement. Whatever jute is offered to JCI, JCI will buy at the support price.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No discussion. Order. No cross-talking here.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Mr. Speaker, I presume that the assurance given by the Prime Minister applies as much to Bihar, Assam and Orissa as it applies to West Bengal. I would like to explain, Mr. Speaker, that the amount actually offered by the jute grower to the JCI depends very much upon the infrastructure that the JCI is having.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no....

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Just a minute. If in the entire State of Bihar JCI has got only 12 centres and each centre is hundreds of kms. away from the growers, and the growers need money immediately after the harvest and if the JCI does not expand its infrastructure and make itself available at the door-step of the farmer, in every hut, how is the assurance of the Prime Minister going to be effected or implemented? Therefore, my question is, has the JCI taken necessary steps to expand its infrastructure, does it

have the necessary staff and has it opened necessary purchase centres and got necessary funds in order that the farmer is in a position to offer his jute?

MR. SPEAKER : That is all right.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I am told that the purchase is done jointly by the local State cooperatives and the JCI, and there are enough centres available in Bengal.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : What about Bihar ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : In Bihar also, they are available.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Mr. Speaker, I hope the Prime Minister will investigate into the matter and find out the average distance between each traditional hut and the JCI purchase centre. It is at least 40 to 50 kms. away. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : That is all.

SHRI SARAT DEB : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to the State of Orissa that there is no possibility of the Jute Corporation buying from the State Cooperative Societies. Will the Prime Minister kindly take some necessary steps to make this Jute Corporation buy from the State Cooperative Societies ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : If it is a matter of buying jute from the growers in Orissa, that can be looked into.

Seizure of Goods at Trivandrum Airport

*23. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the broad particulars of goods seized by the customs authorities from the passengers at Trivandrum Airport during the last three years ;

(b) the amount realised by the sale of confiscated items during the above period ; and

(c) the value of goods lying undisposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) : The details of the goods seized by the Customs authorities from passengers at Trivandrum Airport during the last three years 1983, 1984 and 1985 are furnished below :

(Value ; Rs. In lakhs)

Name of the commodity seized	Year		
	1983	1984	1985
Gold	30	71.58	270.55
Textiles	105	56.05	21.81
Watches	18	7.69	3.39
Indian and foreign currency	3	4.47	8.92
Miscellaneous baggage goods	59	46.02	65.43
Total	215	185.81	370.10

(b) : The total amount realised by way of sale of confiscated goods at Trivandrum Airport during the above period is furnished below :

Year	(Rs. in lakhs) Amount realised
1983	49
1984	47.44
1985	165.80

(These figures do not include the value of gold deposited in the Mint during the above period).

(c) : The total value of seized/confiscated goods held in stock at Trivandrum Airport as on 30.6.1986 is Rs. 3.10 crores*

*Figures are Provisional.