

Therefore, the sales are very low as compared to the number of tourists visiting this country. Does the Government intend to have any duty free shops in the major cities?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: So far as the present position is concerned, we have started one duty free shop in Ashoka Hotel. We will consider the suggestion of the hon. friend to open such shops in other places.

SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH: I would like to know the floor area covered by the duty free shops. That should be the criteria in the airport. Is Government thinking of increasing the floor area of the duty free shop?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: With the construction of the new terminal buildings, we will consider this suggestion.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Amritsar area has been put on the international map. The planes are going from Amritsar to Kabul and are coming back from there. Now international cargo will also be routed via Amritsar. May I know from the hon. Minister, will these duty free shops be available at the Amritsar Airport?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: It is a suggestion for consideration.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: This is not a suggestion. When are you opening? You have to say, are you opening or not?

Jute produced in Bihar and purchased by JCI

*69. **SHRI D. L. BAITHA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the quantity of total jute produced in the year 1980-81 in the State of Bihar and purchases made by the Jute Corporation of India;

(b) whether the Jute Corporation of India always complaints of lack of infra-structure, sufficient funds and also space for storing the purchased jute with the result it was not able to mop up even 40 per cent of the produce from the market;

(c) whether Government propose considering the desirability of getting the jute growers' cooperatives organised at Panchayat level and arrange necessary funds for the purchase of organisation, construction of atleast one godown at each Panchayat level and lifting of jute from Panchayat level by the J.C.I. after providing for necessary infra-structure for the purpose; and

(d) whether Government propose ensuring that all the jute mills taken over by Government or managed under the supervision of the Government, have their supply of jute requirement through the J.C.I.?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The estimated production of jute and mesta in 1980-81 in Bihar is 11.49 lakh bales, and the JCI had till 31-1-81, procured 2.52 lakh bales.

(b) Despite the constraints of infra-structure, funds, godown space etc. the Corporation has been consistently increasing its procurement and the current year's procurement (till 31-1-81) of 9.6 lakh bales is the highest achieved so far. In Bihar, till 31-1-81, the Corporation has procured 21 per cent of the total produce of Bihar as against all India procurement level of 12 per cent.

(c) Government's policy is to encourage formation of jute growers' cooperatives for procurement purposes. In this sphere, however, the

active role has to be played by the State Governments. The existing go-down space with the JCI is adequate to cover procurement of about 19.76 lakh bales, with 5.40 lakh bales storage capacity in Bihar.

(d) The nationalized jute mills are progressively increasing purchases through JCI to meet their requirements of raw jute.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: In reply to (a) it has been said that only 2.52 lakh bales have been procured till 31-1-1981 and that forms only 21 per cent. On an average only 12 per cent has been procured. What is the Government's policy with regard to 88 per cent which is still with the growers?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have explained to a number of times the deficiencies of the Jute Corporation of India. The hon. Member wanted to know the actual figures. I have given that i.e. whatever they have been able to procure. It is a fact that the Jute Corporation of India has not been able to procure more than 12 per cent of the total production, taking the national average consumption. In Bihar it is a little more as compared to the national figure.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Will the Minister be pleased to say that in view of the fact that only 12 per cent procurement has been made as yet, the jute growers are forced to distress sale? Will the Government consider the extension of the period of procurement of the JCI?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I had a meeting with the State Chief Ministers. When I was in Patna, he also suggested to me for extending the date of JCI operation. I wanted to ascertain only one point from him. Is jute actually available with the growers? If jute is available with the growers, I have no objection in extending the period of JCI operation. But that has to be ascertained.

Otherwise, it is of no use purchasing it from the traders.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: On the last occasion, when this question was raised in the House, the hon. Minister had stated that the big constraint in stepping up purchases of the JCI this season was that the unsold carry-over from the last crop was so large that the JCI could not go in for any large-scale purchases, until those stocks of the previous year were disposed of. This time, I find, he has not mentioned anything about that. Am I to understand that those previous stocks have been cleared and, if not, what is the position regarding that at the moment.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is true, when the JCI started its operations for the current year, they had an unsold stock of nearly a little more than 16 lakh bales and this year, they have procured more than 9.6 lakh bales. Therefore, the total position is about 25 lakh bales. Out of that, the JCI has been able to sell 10.75 lakh bales including a small part of it being exported.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या यह बात सच है कि जूट कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया की तरफ से जूट खरीदने की व्यवस्था होने के बावजूद बिहार के महसूला और पूर्णिया जिलों में किसानों को मजबूर हो कर डिस्ट्रेस सेल पर यानी 38 रुपये में जूट बेचना पड़ रहा है? क्या यह बात भी सच है कि बिहार ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस के प्रेजिडेंट श्री चतुरानन्द मिश्र ने इस सम्बन्ध में स कार का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है? यदि हां, तो इस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ताकि किसानों को सरोट प्राइम मिल सके?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is true that if the JCI or the public sector procurement agency cannot intervene in an effective manner, naturally, the growers do not get the

price and, when the JCI operation on the national scale is limited to nearly 12 per cent, naturally, it could not intervene effectively. But I do not exactly know at what price they were compelled to sell...

SHRI RAMAVTAR SHASTRI: At Rs. 38. It has come out in the press.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: We have got the reports that some growers were compelled to sell at a low-price. We have received some representations. As I mentioned to the hon. Members on the earlier occasion also, we are trying to improve the functioning of the JCI and its operation. Let us see what we can do in the next season.

PROF. N. G RANGA: May I know what additional or fresh steps are being taken by the Government in order to improve the position? During the last 3-4 years, it has been such a miserable position for the growers. There have been distress sales. Outstanding stocks, from last year were 16 lakh bales and, this year, they were able to purchase only 9 lakh bales. It does not show any kind of progress at all. What is it that is preventing the JCI from getting into the market in a big way, purchasing a large percentage of the production, specially, in Bihar and in north-eastern States and also in Andhra, and save the growers from distress sales? There seems to be no specific dynamic step being taken by the Government.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The specific step has already been taken. As the hon. Member himself has admitted, one of the limitations of the JCI operation was that it had an old stock of 16 lakh bales. That is why the emphasis was laid that they should dispose of the old stock. If they could not dispose of the old stock, even the limited operation they could not have undertaken this year. This year, they have procured a little more, 9.6 lakh

bales. So, we have already taken the step. This year, they will be able to sell. In the last two years, they could not sell. In the current year, they could sell 10.75 lakh bales. You may not be satisfied with that figure. In the previous year they did not dispose of a single ounce. The Government had to provide subsidy to the tune of Rs. 13 crores. This is also a fact.

One of constraints is godown space. We have storing facilities of roughly 19.75 lakh bales. Even if they can re-cycle it and, if they can go on purchasing and disposing of, with the same godown space, they could procure much more. The emphasis is being laid on the disposal of the existing stock. We are taking it up with the Chief Ministers of jute-growing States so that from the very beginning we can build necessary infrastructure and in the next season, they can intervene in an effective manner.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The Minister in Part 1 of the statement says that the existing godown space with the JCI is adequate to cover procurement of about 19.76 lakh bales, that is roughly 20 lakh bales. He again says that 9.6 lakh bales is the highest achieved so far. It has been said that JCI has the capacity of procuring a total quantity of 20 lakh bales but, so far it has been able to procure only 9.6 lakh bales, only half the capacity. May I know the actual reason for not utilising the entire capacity of the JCI for the procurement of jute? Is it not sheer inefficiency?

Secondly, whether the nationalised jute mills are being advised to purchase raw jute compulsorily from the JCI?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am a little surprised that an otherwise very laborious Member Shri Chitta Basu had missed the point which I had explained 19.6 lakh bales is the godown capacity of JCI. In reply to Prof. Ranga's question, I

had already mentioned that JCI purchased roughly about 8 lakh bales in 1979 and 9.6 lakh bales in 1980. Therefore, during 1978-79, they could not dispose of a single ounce. Those 18 lakh bales were kept in the god-down. Godown space was already occupied by the earlier procured 18 lakh bales and this year, 9.6 lakh bales is added to it. The total capacity of storage facilities of JCI goes up to 25.6 lakh bales. Out of that, as they could dispose of 10.75 lakh bales, 15 lakh bales are still lying.

In regard to the second part of Hon. Member's question, nationalised group mills are already purchasing from the JCI and I can give figures. Nationalised Jute Manufacturing Corporation has already procured 4.57 lakh bales from JCI. That is why, JCI could dispose of 10.75 lakh bales.

Tax Evasion

*70. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the 'Economic Times' dated December 10, 1980, captioned "TAX EVASION LIKELY TO TOUCH Rs. 300 CRORES MARK";

(b) if so, what is the Government's assessment of the position; and

(c) what steps have since been taken by Government to prevent such tax-evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

With a view to releasing manpower available for making assessments in bigger cases, a 'Summary Assessment

Scheme' was introduced in 1971 under which returns are accepted without calling the assessee to the Income-tax Office. This scheme applies to assessments with income upto a certain monetary limit which has been fixed from time to time. There are various categories of cases to which the scheme does not apply irrespective of the income e.g., new cases, tax evasion cases, practically all company cases, etc. There is also a built-in check by way of a sample scrutiny on random selection basis out of the cases falling under the scheme. To prevent tax evasion. Sub-Section (9) of Section 139 has been introduced by Finance (No: 2) Act. 1980 prescribing statutorily, *inter-alia*, filing of balance-sheet, trading account, profit and loss account and partners/proprietors accounts where regular books of accounts are maintained and also filing of a trial balance and the basis of income returned in cases where regular books of accounts are not maintained. The scope of sample scrutiny has been further enlarged and tightened recently. Officers have been directed to pick up more cases for sample scrutiny. The scrutiny has been made more effective as total wealth statements in all such cases have now to be obtained and scrutinised before finalising the assessments. The Inspecting Assistant Commissioners have also been instructed to issue directions u/s 144A in some of these cases for investigation. Officers have been directed to take a case out of the summary assessment scheme if it is found that a person has made apparently wrong claim for deduction or exemption. Cases where property income has been shown for the first time, have also been excluded from the purview of summary assessment scheme. First assessment in a new case is excluded from the summary scheme for the purposes of proper determination of status, capital investment etc.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The categorical implication in the statement laid on the Table of the