

of the CCI is concerned. I would not like to explain it in greater detail. As I explained, we would not like to see that the prices go down from the level which was reached last year. In regard to the specific complaints of that particular area, we have not received any complaint; but if the hon. Member has any information, and if he keeps me informed, I will check up.

**SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA:** I am glad that he will check up on that issue; but along with it, I would request Government to check whether there are complaints regarding malpractices in respect of the purchase of cotton. The trend to-day is to buy cotton from private traders. Will Government encourage purchases from cooperatives, instead of from the private traders?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** We get this kind of complaints; and as soon as we get them, we also take some action. But it would be helpful for the CCI to operate, if the market is brought under regulation. To some extent, the functioning of CCI depends on the regulated marketing arrangement. In most of the cotton-growing States regulation of cotton trade has been made. In some States, it has not been made, and we have taken it up with the State Governments.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Mohan Lal Patel is not there. Now question 297.

#### **Jute Mills' target for Purchase of Raw Jute**

\*297. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the jute mills fixed a target of purchasing 1.2 million bales of raw Jute from the market this year.

(b) if so, the total purchases made by the mills till date;

(c) whether the jute mills were given financial assistance to make purchases; and

(d) if so, details of the assistance and their utilisation?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) Monitoring Committee on raw jute purchases has set a minimum target for purchase by jute mills in West Bengal at 6 lakh bales in October and 9 lakh bales each for November and December, 1981.

(b) As reported by Chairman, IJMA total purchases by mills upto 7th November, 1981 amount to 21.56 lakh bales.

(c) and (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India has advised all Commercial Banks to provide additional credit to jute mills for purchase of raw jute upto 14 weeks' consumption including of 4 Weeks' consumption from JCI and an additional two weeks' consumption during peak season of November 1981 to January 1982 as a measure of price support operation for raw jute. Banks have also been advised to consider reducing the margin to 10 per cent for purchase of raw jute to be made in November and December and 15 per cent for purchase to be made in January '82.

According to the latest information availbale, the total outstanding advances of all scheduled commercial banks to mills/factories and industrial users against raw jute were as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

June 1981	31.6
July 1981	31.2
August 1981	38.1

The mills representd that they were not in a position to draw upon the sanctioned credit limits fully because of continuing depression in jute goods market, bleak short term outlook, accumulation of finished goods and liquidity crisis being faced by the mills.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I think the hon. Minister knows that time is a very important factor. The Monitoring Committee fixed a target for the months of October—November, and further on. Why were the targets not fixed for earlier months—because it is alleged that the mills did not enter the market at the early part of the jute marketing season, only in order to repress, artificially, the price of raw jute—which resulted in distress sale of raw jute on a large scale? If so, will the hon. Minister assure the House that having had this experience during the current year, steps will be taken to ensure that the mills enter the market at the early part of the jute marketing season?

SHRI PARNAB MUKHERJEE: The conclusion of the hon. Member is correct that the mills did not enter into the market in the earlier part and even when they entered, that has also not given much relief to the grower, and even during my discussion with the mills,—one discussion I had independently and another in the presence of the Chief Minister of West Bengal, they had emphasised that it was no use purchasing through contract. There should be ready delivery so that they can pick up from the market and the growers can get the price in cash. And contract means that a lot of middlemen also come into it. The figures I have given also include contact figures. But this is the fact. We accommodated them so far as credit is concerned, whatever problem they posed we have sorted it out. But so far as the price situation is concerned, they did not do it, and we shall have to think of some other mechanism. We suggested to

the West Bengal Government about the performance. The J.C.I. has purchased much more than what they did earlier. But that is quite inadequate. So let us think of something else.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

गेहूँ, चीनी, सीमेंट और खाद्य तेलों के आयात के लिए करार

\* 295. श्री मुन्दर शर्मा : क्या वित्त मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला विवरण सभा-घटन पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गेहूँ, चीनी, सीमेंट और खाद्य तेलों के आयात के लिये इस वर्ष कितने करार किये गये हैं ;

(ख) उन देशों के नाम क्या हैं, जिनके साथ ये करार किये गये हैं तथा इनका कितनी मात्रा में आयात किया जाएगा और इन पर कितना व्यय होगा ; और

(ग) क्या कुछ और करार किये जाने की संभावना है ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री आर० बेंकटरामन)

(क) से (ग). मांगी गई सूचना संलग्न विवरण में दी गई है। आवश्यक वस्तुओं का आयात देश में उभरती हुई स्थितियों के परिप्रेक्ष्य में प्रभावी ढंग से पूर्ति का प्रबन्ध करने के लिए किया जाता है।