

16.45½ hrs.

### BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### SIXTY-SIXTH REPORT

**Shri Rane** (Buldana): I beg to present the Sixty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** We went into a number of items, Bills for the next week etc., and the report contains the allocation of time for these things.

16.46 hrs.

### DISCUSSION RE: SCARCITY OF RAW JUTE

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now take up the discussion on the statement laid by the Minister of Commerce on the Table of the House on the 16th August, 1961, regarding the block closure observed by the Indian Jute Mills Association owing to scarcity of raw jute.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta** (Calcutta-South West): In initiating this discussion on the statement laid by the hon. Minister of Commerce in this House on the 16th August, in response to a calling-attention-notice, regarding the block closure observed by the Indian Jute Mills Association owing to scarcity of raw jute, I would like, at the outset, to bring to the notice of the House that this discussion is being raised at a time which seems to be extremely critical for the whole jute industry and the jute trade.

From the newspaper reports that we have seen this morning, we find that there have been a series of conferences and discussions held in Calcutta during the last two or three days, between the Chief Minister of the State and representatives of the Indian Jute Mills Association and also of certain trade union organisations, on matters arising out of this problem. We also read in the papers that tomorrow, the 25th August, there is

going to be some sort of conference or meeting in Delhi between the representatives of the Indian Jute Mills Association and the Central Government to discuss probably the question of the fixation of a floor price or minimum price for raw jute. I do not know whether that is correct or not, but certainly the Minister will confirm it, and I hope that he will also take the House into confidence as to what line Government propose to follow in this regard.

There is also an item of news in this morning's newspapers, which I hope is also true, which says that the Indian Jute Mills Association has issued a circular to its member-mills advising them to withdraw the restrictions on production which they had imposed at the beginning of this month, which means the restrictions which have been imposed in the form of allowing individual mills of the Indian Jute Mills Association either to curtail the working hours or to seal looms or even to close down, if necessary, according to the amount of raw jute which they had in their mill-stocks.

It now appears that as a result of these confabulations in Calcutta, and as a result of the agitation which has been carried on persistently on behalf of the workers and the jute growers, some results are following, and it is certainly a welcome sign. I hope that all the interests concerned, namely the Central Government, the State Government, the employers as well as the workers and the jute cultivators' interests will all consider this question in a rational and reasonable manner, so that the long-term interests of this great national industry of ours can be properly safeguarded and protected.

Now this statement which related to the question of block closures was primarily meant, in the first instance, to raise the issue of the effects of this on labour. But it was dealt with by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and therefore the statement laid on the Table on the 16th has dealt,

in the main, with other questions of production and consumption of raw jute etc. But I have first to point out what I consider to be certain serious inaccuracies in this statement which is the prime reason for my wanting to raise this discussion.

Here it says on page 2, that the proposal of the IJMA to either be allowed to bring about another block closure of mills—that is to say, the third closure in the month of August—or alternatively to be allowed to seal an additional 18 per cent of their looms—there being 12½ per cent sealed already—was discussed by the representatives of the IJMA with the West Bengal Government and the latter did not agree to the proposal. I submit that this statement by not so much stating something wrong as by making an omission puts the West Bengal Government itself in a rather awkward position, because the fact of the matter is that this disapproval of the IJMA's proposal was also shared in by the Central Government—I do not know by which Ministry; that is not my job to know. They will tell us.

It is quite evident from the public statements made by the State Labour Minister, Shri Abdus Sattar as well as by Dr. B. C. Roy—who made his statement yesterday quite already and categorically—that 'Neither the Government of India nor the West Bengal Government agreed to such a step being taken inasmuch as they were not quite satisfied that the jute situation was such as to warrant closure of the mills'.

It may be due to oversight or something, but this statement by implying that the responsibility for disapproving of this proposal belonged only to the West Bengal Government has done an injustice, because the fact of the matter, as stated quite clearly by the State Ministers, is that the Central Government also expressed their disapproval of this move of the IJMA. Therefore, the matter takes on much more importance.

What happened after that? Despite this disapproval, both from Delhi and Calcutta, the IJMA gave permission to its member mills to take any such action as they pleased on the basis of their own calculations of their raw jute supply. Here the statement says, 'It is reported that a few mills have stopped working intermittently for two or three days at a time for want of raw jute, but no mill has so far been closed for longer periods of more than one week'. This again, I submit, is perhaps due to inadequate information with the Commerce Ministry. Actually, three Ministries should be present here to deal adequately with the different aspects of this problem; the Labour Ministry is involved, the Agriculture Ministry is concerned and of course, the Commerce Ministry is also there. There are aspects with which perhaps Shri Kanungo may not be able to deal as adequately as I would like him to.

The statement made is an incorrect one. The fact is that after the IJMA gave freedom of action to its member mills, the position which has developed—as far as I know—upto yesterday was that three mills have closed down completely, on the plea of not having any raw jute in their stocks. They are the Gourepore Jute Mills, the Nafarchandra Jute Mills and the Prabartak Jute Mills. Many of the mills have closed down at least one shift out of three. Many of the mills have reduced their working hours,—which were already reduced, from 48 to 45 and from 45 to 42½,—further to 35 per week, at least 10,000 looms have been sealed by a large number of mills, which means that about 25,000 to 30,000 workers have been affected, that is to say, rendered unemployed.

Just as a matter of illustration, I would say that one of the big groups of mills, the Jardine Henderson Group, which has got half a dozen mills under its control, has decided to seal an additional 18 per cent of their looms—which was the original proposal of the IJMA. As a result of

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this, there has been considerable unemployment. A considerable number of people have been laid off or rendered unemployed. In three mills at this very moment, namely, the Fort William Jute Mill, the Howrah Jute Mill and the Kamarhatti Jute Mill—in front of the gates of those mills—some of the workers have had to resort to hunger strikes.

So what I am saying is that in this statement, which I have quoted earlier, there is an attempt to minimise the impact of these developments on labour. I say that a very serious problem has been created and it should not be minimised. I hope that this morning's news, that under pressure the IJMA has at last agreed to withdraw these restrictions imposed in August is correct. But of course, there is no guarantee for the future as to what they might do again. As far as the policy of block closures which they pursued in June and July last is concerned, the point I wish to make is that the manner in which the Government have acceded at every step to the demand of the IJMA was totally unjustified and the manner in which it has been carried out has really inflicted a grave injustice on the workers as well as on the future of the growers.

I have no time to go into the history of these block closures, which were brought about by IJMA with a three-fold purpose. One purpose was to boost up the prices of their manufactured jute goods which also had begun to fall. These couple of months is the traditionally slack season, when our foreign customers do not place their orders; they hold off from the market. Therefore, the prices of manufactured jute goods had begun to slump.

The hon. Minister knows, as well as everybody does, that the market in jute goods and raw jute is one of the most highly speculative markets. By holding off from purchase they wanted

in their traditional capitalist method to effect a fall in prices; the IJMA by restricting production was interested for its own purpose in bringing about this block closure of the mills.

Their second motive was to influence the prices of the coming raw jute crop. Everybody knows this. This matter will be debated tomorrow also. But I am afraid a new set of Ministers will be sitting there. I am told the Minister of Food and Agriculture will deal with this matter tomorrow. So we will have to repeat all this tomorrow. Anyone who knows anything about jute, knows that the jute crop this year has been very good; some people say that a bumper crop has begun to come to the market. Instead of expressing in my words, it would be better for me to quote a paragraph from Dr. B. C. Roy's statement of yesterday.

**Mr. Speaker:** Why don't they organise a cooperative society for spinning?

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** It is not a question of spinning.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a question of cooperation by means of which the jute growers can sell their raw jute direct to the Government or to the mills, instead of having to pass through middlemen.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** But if the mills are closed?

**Mr. Speaker:** All the mills are not closed. In South India they have formed cooperative spinning mills. What is the use of going on asking those people who have refused? The other alternative is what I said.

**Shri Nagi Reddy (Anantapur):** We can nationalise the mills.

**Mr. Speaker:** Why don't you ask these people to organise themselves into a cooperative society?

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** There are other problems pertaining to this industry to which I shall refer later on.

Dr. B. C. Roy says:

"At the present moment, the jute-growers are entirely at the mercy of the buyers, consisting of the Jute millowners and other intermediaries, not only intermediaries. These two groups of people, who happen to be dealers in jute fibres, can make the jute growers absolutely helpless and the latter have no other alternative but to depend on chance. That should not be the case. If jute production is to be made permanent and reliable feature of the State, and if such production is to be promoted, it is essential that the jute-growers must be assured of a floor price."

It stands to commonsense that at this time the jute grower, the jute cultivator, has no holding power; he is forced to part with his raw jute the moment it is ready. This is the psychological moment; this is not the first time as this has happened so many times in the past with the jute mills association. It is so powerfully organised and has its network of agencies and middlemen throughout the jute growing area. At this moment they are attempting by various means to exert pressure upon the jute cultivators to part with the jute at the lowest possible prices they could get. This is the position which they have been trying all this time. It may be argued that the fixation of the minimum price of raw jute should be done before the sowing season. That is true; that is a valid argument. But the fact remains that this has not been done, for whatever reasons it may be.

17 hrs.

**Mr. Speaker:** As in the case of tea where it is all planned in agreement with the Tea Board—so many acres

and so on—is there any such plan in regard to jute to be grown in accordance with the demand?

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** No, Sir. That is the whole trouble and that is why we are arguing this point so vehemently.

**Mr. Speaker:** There must be some planning so that there is no wastage of jute. There must be a marketing society so that it may be sold. If nobody takes it, they should have a spinning and weaving mill on their own, gradually. That is the next best to nationalisation.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** So, that was the second motive to force the price down. Thirdly, there is another point. After many years a jute wage board has been appointed last year by the Government of India to go into the question of jute mill workers' wages. So, there is an attempt by the IJMA to influence the wage board's decision because by creating an artificial atmosphere of crisis it wants to show that the industry cannot work normally because the raw jute supplies are not available, etc. and so they are forced to work on restricted time and so on. They are thus attempting to influence the wage board into denying the workers their legitimate claims. The question may be asked whether there is really any shortage of raw jute. If one takes the absolute figures of the total raw jute crop, there is no doubt that last year the raw jute crop as a whole was somewhat smaller than the average annual output. But, the point is this. What steps were taken in time? Here is the IJMA which boasts, correctly, of being the best organised and perhaps the most powerful section of the private industry in our country, an industry that has earned for us Rs. 130.150 crores every year as foreign exchange, the bulk of it from the dollar area and is the only industry of this country of this magnitude which is completely left unregulated by the Government and is permitted

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to have complete and undisputed control over everything from the fixation of the raw jute price, the way of regulating its own production, controlling exports, its working hours, its labour conditions on a uniform basis. At no stage is Government either in a position or willing to intervene and to impose any firm control or regulate it in the larger public interest. This is what has been going on. On the one hand, we find a big hullabaloo raised by the jute mill-owners about the shortage of raw jute. On the other hand, it is on open secret that within the Indian Jute Mills Association, a large number of mills were opposed to this block closure for the simple reason that they had ample stocks of raw jute. The whole trouble is that some mills had enough and some mills had less . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member's time is up.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** I will require some more time, Sir. Besides, a number of hon. Members whose names are here are not present. Some of them are not here.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will give him five more minutes; he has taken already fifteen minutes.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** The fact of the matter is that a number of mills as has been proved now during the month of August, were not able to carry on as they had not enough jute stocks, and a number of mills which have indulged in dubious practices—speculation, hoarding and purchase and resale of raw jute—may be in a position where their stocks had dwindled. But the Jute Mills' Association, because of its organised hold on a number of mills, compelled all of them, in the interests of less efficient and less honest mills, to go in for block closure. I want to know from the Government which gave licence for 100,000 bales of jute cuttings from Pakistan to be imported as an emergency measure. I would

like to know from the hon. Minister how much of that was availed of by the jute mills and how much have they actually purchased. I want to know that when the price of long jute in Pakistan is fairly reasonable at the present moment, why did they not come out, as an emergency measure, saying that long jute imports also will be permitted for two months on open general licence?

Now, we find that responsible quarters including Ministers of State Governments are repeatedly saying that although jute has come to the market, strangely enough, the mills do not show any interest in buying it. They are not buying it. This is the position; the prices are going down and the prices have fallen. The prices have fallen over the last three months from Rs. 62 per maund to Rs. 31 or Rs. 32 per maund which is the latest quotation in the Calcutta market yesterday. If there is scarcity of a commodity, do the prices fall or go up? I think it is a matter of the common law of supply and demand. But here we find a curious thing. There is jute scarcity but the prices are going down from Rs. 62 to Rs. 30 a maund!

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it said that the mills are closed for want of sufficient raw material?

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** That is the only argument. I would say that even the block closures could have been avoided if the IJMA, with its central control, had been asked by the Government to share out the stock to mills which had not ample stock, to share out the loss and then adjust the accounts later on. But nothing of the kind was done. No constructive suggestions came forward. Every time they rushed to Delhi, mostly by-passing the State Governments also and they went back to Calcutta and said: "Delhi has given permission." We know all that. The West Bengal Government had many a time pointed out that without consulting them, they go straight to Delhi and

after getting the thing done they go back. So, the West Bengal Government has no option but to rubber-stamp that decision.

**Mr. Speaker:** The merchants have evidently copied hon. Members here!

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** They are very clever people.

**Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly):** They get the things done where we fail.

**Mr. Speaker:** Just as some hon. Members by-pass the State Governments, the merchants also are doing it!

**Shri Tangamani (Madurai):** When they come to the Centre we may have to counter it!

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** I also wish to draw attention to the statement made by the Jute Dealers' Association of Calcutta, who are also important people in the trade, right from the first day, they said that the blockclosure is a manoeuvre and that though there is an absolute shortage, it is not such as to warrant such a drastic action. Since last June, over one year now, they have been carrying out these restrictive practices. First there was a ceiling of looms; and then there was reduction of hours of work, and then this block closure; these were always on the plea that there was scarcity of raw jute.

Therefore, my submissions are, firstly, on this question of further restriction of production, the Government must make it clear to the IJMA that no further artificial restriction of this type will be permitted. In fact, the IJMA in a statement was forced to admit a thing which even five days ago they were denying, namely, enough raw jute is now coming in the market. I am also glad that Dr. B. C. Roy has been able to persuade them at least to come out with that admission. So, no more restrictive practices should be permitted. For one thing, you must consider the 200,000 workers who are

involved in this industry. They have been subjected to a continuous wage cut over the last year. I was a member of the Wage Board. I know how frustrated they are. This Wage Board, consisting of Government representatives and the trade union representatives unanimously recommended a small minimum increase—as an interim measure—or a relief of Rs. 3.42. Even that relief has proved to be no relief because what they got from that has been more than taken away by the fact that their hours of work have been reduced to such an extent that their wages have been cut. Not only that. Not only have the workers' interests have suffered, but the long-term interests of the industry and the export markets are being seriously injured. That is my point, because this is the way restrictive practices are imposed. The prices of hessian and sanking are put up. That is why our foreign customers tend to use substitute materials. They are not interested in an industry which is continuously manoeuvring the prices against them, because of these artificial methods, apparently approved by the Government. It is an extraordinary thing.

I can understand the claim that the prices should not be too high for foreign markets. But that is not the malady. The malady is not the question of highness of prices. The malady is that there is no stability. One day the price is down, the next day it is manoeuvred up and there is speculation in the Phatka bazar of Calcutta, famous in jute circles. How do you expect foreign customers to go on dealing with us? That is why they are turning to other countries or to substitute materials. If these things are allowed to continue in a few years' time, the result will be, a few enterprising mill-owners who want to make as much profit as possible within a few years may be able to do it, but in another 10 years, this great national asset will be ruined. The golden fibre of Bengal is slowly being frittered away and wasted. That aspect should

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be seriously considered by Government.

Secondly, there is the question of fixation of minimum price for raw jute. I hope the Government will take us into confidence and tell us what they propose to do, since I am to'd negotiations are going to be held tomorrow. My contention is that the minimum price of raw jute must be fixed at a level which will give the raw jute cultivator a proper economic price, covering his cost of production plus a slight margin, so that he may have some incentive to go in for jute cultivation in the next season also. Otherwise, we find this cycle from year to year. One year the prices are downgraded and the grower is not able to get an adequate price. Next year, the production becomes smaller and the prices are pushed up in the speculative market. The third year again the opposite cycle takes place. This is not good for the jute industry at all.

Therefore, prices must be fixed and those prices should be statutorily enforced. Or, if Government is not willing to take such a step at this stage, let them do two things at least. Let them announce publicly that if the prices of raw jute fall below that minimum, Government itself will enter into the market and purchase the raw jute directly from the growers. Let them say so and give some confidence to the cultivators. The Minister knows the system at present very well. Even before the raw jute is ready, it is already mortgaged to moneylenders and middlemen. So, I would suggest, let the cost of production be properly assessed. Speaking about Bengal—I do not know about other jute-producing areas—the cost of production is somewhere in the neighbourhood of Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 per maund. Let a proper assessment and a survey be carried out. Let prices be fixed at an economic level, which will give the grower a return on his cost of production and also some incentive for growing jute in the fields next season.

My third suggestion, which is very necessary and I think the Government should consider it, is the question of bigger intervention by the State in the export trade of jute goods. At present it is limited practically to trade with the socialist countries. That is more or less on a Government to Government basis and it is good. The STC is acting there and our exports to these socialist countries have gone up substantially in the last two years, although they still represent a very small percentage of the total.

But as far as the so-called traditional markets are concerned, to which we are tied, just as we are tied to the Commonwealth markets for all our exports—I do not know what is going to happen to it because of the ECM—the whole of this jute export trade is virtually tied to two or three markets—North America, South America and Australia. The trade is left entirely to the private sector. Only the IJMA are financed and subsidised by Government to do their own research, send out delegations and so on. But the point is, it is high time this foreign exchange earner was properly regulated to serve the interests of the country and the country's economy. For that purpose, this valuable trade cannot be left entirely in the hands of the private sector.

With reference to the traditional market, therefore, my suggestion is that at the two ends, at the raw material end and at the finished goods end—export trade—at least as an interim measure the Government should enter into the field and nationalise or take over or do it themselves directly. They should purchase all raw jute and the export trade should be channelised properly through the S.T.C. In this way the industry should be put on a more stable basis. I would have suggested that the whole of this export trade should be nationalised immediately. I find Shri Kanungo is already shaking his head. I know they will consider that to be too drastic a step. But, any way, as Mr. Sattar, our State Labour Minister has said in his state-

ment, IJMA is a very very powerful force. This is what he said:

"IJMA, he added, was a powerful and well-organised body which could create pressure, even a crisis."

We know that very well. Our people who have been dealing with the jute workers' movement for the last 20 years know how Government faces up to that pressure of IJMA. It rather hesitates to face up to it. Now there are some signs. Some say that we are expressing and saying things because elections are coming. I am very glad that the elections have an effect on both sides. It is good. I welcome it. After all, Dr. Roy will also have to go to the voters. We have also to go. Let us both compete, the government and we, to see how we can get the votes. Let us put it in a very straight way to the jute cultivators and jute workers. Let us use the interim period before elections to stand up to IJMA which had bullied and brow-beaten us for so many years. Together let us stand up to them. What are you afraid of? Let us say that this kind of monopoly, racketeering which is being allowed in this industry will not be allowed any more in the interest of the lakhs of workers and other people who are connected with the industry. The whole economy of my State practically depends on this industry. Let us say that this will not be proper and the State is going to take adequate measures to control and regulate it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Banerjee.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, . . .

**Shri Bibhut Mishra (Bagaha):** Jute is not grown in Kanpur.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** There are some mills in Kanpur. There has been a block closure

**Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan (Coimbatore):** Jute is of national importance.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Banerjee sent in his name earlier. There are some hon. Members who are interested and who continue taking interest in certain subjects. Every hon. Member is entitled to take part in any discussion.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** He did not care to move his Calling Attention Notice. He had forgotten about jute at that time when I moved it.

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** Till what time is the debate likely to continue?

**Mr. Speaker:** May I know who are all the hon. Members who want to participate?

Some hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** I find there are seven hon. Members. How much time will the hon. Minister take?

**Shri Kanungo:** I will try to be as brief as possible and take only 20 minutes.

**Mr. Speaker:** That means about 1½ hours. We started it at 4.45. We have spent half an hour. It is 5.15 now. If we take 1½ hours more, we will conclude it by 6.45. I leave it to the House. It is an important matter. Or, we can go up to 6.00 and have one hour tomorrow.

Some hon. Members: Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** We will sit up to 6.00 today and have one hour tomorrow. I have got the names of hon. Members who stood up now. Only they will be called. Each hon. Member can have ten minutes only.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Ten minutes from now.

I have very carefully gone through the statement made by the hon. Minister and I find from the statement that the proposal to observe the block closure has been put before the Government of India and the Government



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of West Bengal earlier and it was with the approval of both the Governments that the Association decided on this step. The decision was taken to tide over the period of difficulty caused by the acute shortage of raw jute in the use of raw jute and the adjustment of the consumption of raw jute with available supplies, pending the arrival of the new jute crop, when the position was subject to review. So, my submission is this.

**Mr. Speaker:** As Shri Sen wants to go early to catch a train, I will allow him to speak after Shri Banerjee. Then I will call Shri Prabhat Kar.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** With the two mills in Kanpur and another in Saijanwa, there are three jute mills in Uttar Pradesh. One of the mills in Kanpur, the Maheshwari Devi Jute Mills, is a member of the IJMA, whereas the J. K. Jute mill is not a member of the IJMA. But it is most unfortunate that both the mills closed as a result of the block closure, though after investigation it was found that one particular mill, the J. K. Jute Mill had enough material to pull on, and with great difficulty, with the help of the State Government and the labour machinery, we were able to persuade the J. K. Jute Mill to restart the mill. The IJMA, with the help of, or after consultation with, the Central Government and the West Bengal Government, decided to have this block closure. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh was also consulted in this, because there were three mills in Uttar Pradesh, and my information is that the UP Government was never consulted before taking this decision, and it was only the IJMA, the State Government of West Bengal and the Central Government which decided among themselves, without consulting the other State Governments.

11.22 hrs.

[SHRI HEDA in the Chair]

Another difficult situation has arisen. The total number of workers affected

by the block closure is estimated at 1,85,000, inclusive of 72,000 badli workers not entitled to lay off compensation. This matter was never considered. When I wrote about this to Shri K. C. Reddy, I had a letter from him that this is most unfortunate but, after all, this had to be done, for what could be done if there was no raw material available. He also assured that Government would see that the mill-owners pay their lay-off allowance. But here are 72,000 workers, out of a total of 1,85,000 who are not entitled to such lay-off compensation. I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether they have also considered that this block closure had affected badli workers, who are known as substitutes, so adversely and, if so, what steps are being taken to see that they are also paid.

Then I want to put another question to the hon. Minister. When the IJMA decided to have this block closure on the ground that they were not having raw jute or the required raw jute to run these jute mills, what steps did the Government of India take? Did they institute any enquiry to ascertain whether this so-called crisis was genuine or not? Because, my information with regard to the mills functioning in UP is that there was no question of shortage. When the interim award of the Jute Wage Board was given, it was only these three mills, not the mills in West Bengal, that did not implement that award. It is very unfortunate that the meagre amount that is recommended as interim relief by the Wage Board of Rs. 2.75 and 3.42 was not implemented by any of the jute mills in Kanpur or in Saijanwa. On the other hand, they are ready to follow any instructions from the IJMA about block closure. But when the IJMA asks them to implement the Wage award, they refuse. They went in with a writ to the Allahabad High Court. Still the case is pending in the Allahabad High Court.

My submission is that the Government should have enquired into the whole affair, whether this crisis was

a genuine crisis or it was only an annual feature or it was meant actually to deprive the workers or influence the Wage board's decision. We are sure the Wage Board is going to decide on some increase for the workers.

The position is this. The current forecast in the case of jute crop for 1961-62 seems to be favourable. But, the actual extent of crop could be estimated only when the new jute crop starts coming at the end of this month. It was reported that the arrival of the new jute crop was delayed for want of rain which was very much necessary for baling operations. Since the rural areas of West Bengal have had adequate rains during the last week, there are favourable chances of the new jute crop coming into the market shortly. This should ease the situation to a considerable extent.

I have very carefully read the statement. I would have welcomed the statement had it come from the I.J.M.A. But, I personally feel that this is a carbon copy of a statement issued by the I.J.M.A. Is the I.J.M.A. so powerful that they could influence the West Bengal Government and possibly hoodwink the Central Government and get some statement as they wanted to issue, to suit their own needs and their own requirements? I am constrained to believe that the I.J.M.A. is really powerful.

About the meeting which is going on or which is going to be held tomorrow about the fixation of prices, I believe, some floor price should be fixed. Shri S. K. Patil, our Food Minister, in Calcutta issued a statement and said that the Government have decided to fix a minimum price for raw jute. I do not know whether the Central Government will be able to fix up a floor price or not, but the I.J.M.A. with its influence has definitely floored both the West Bengal Government and the Central Government. I would request that all these matters should be taken into consideration. Especially, when a particular

mill is not a member of the I.J.M.A., is that mill entitled to close down on the basis of the decision of the I.J.M.A.? This is a matter to be investigated upon. Both the mills are functioning in Kanpur. The question of badli workers or the future closure of the mills depend upon the Central Government. Immediately they decided to close, immediately they posted a notice on the notice board regarding closure, I intimated it to the Central Government or rather the Minister and I requested them to take immediate action. I am sure that this crisis which the I.J.M.A. is going to create is to work as a pressure on the Government for fixation of prices and moreover, whatever they have accumulated, they want to increase the price of the finished goods.

With these words, I fully support the contention of my hon. friend Shri Indrajit Gupta and request the hon. Minister to let us know what the present position is and how they are going to tide over this crisis which, to my mind, is not so serious as it pretends to be, and whether in future, they will take adequate steps to see that a decision taken by the I.J.M.A. in their meeting is not forced upon the State Government or the Central Government. The Central Government must take into confidence the State Government of Uttar Pradesh also where there are mills. It is not that the State Government of West Bengal and the Central Government take a decision just to please the I.J.M.A. and it is forced on the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, which the State Government or the trade unions are not going to tolerate in future.

श्री क० गौ० लाल (गुनिया) : सभापति महोदय, जहां तक जूट की समस्या का सम्बन्ध है, हम लोग बचपन से ही देखते आ रहे हैं कि इसकी कमी और बिना उन लोगों के हाथों में है, जो कि आई० जे० एम० ए० के नाम से चलते हैं। पांच जूट के क्षेत्रों पर किस तरीके से और किस कर इन लोगों के

[श्री फ० गो० सेन]

द्वारा ठगे जाते हैं, यह एक बड़ी डबल कहानी है। कुछ दिन पहले हम लोगों ने यह भी देखा कि इन लोगों में आपस की फूट हुई और जूट को कारगर किया गया, जिसकी वजह से जूट का भाव बढ़ गया। जूट का भाव बढ़ने को कोई और वजह नहीं है।

पटुवा एक कंदा आप है और हमारे किसानों का बिना रुपये के काम नहीं चलता है। हम तो यह देखते हैं कि पटुवा बोन के टाइम पर ही वे रुपया ले लेते हैं, जिसका परिणाम यह होता है कि उनको मनमाने ढंग से पटुवा बेचना पड़ता है। यह देख कर बहुत दुख होता है। जहाँ तक लेबर का सवाल है, जूट मिल में लेबर को ज्यादा पैसा मिलता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि उस अनुपात में किसानों को पैसा नहीं मिलता है और उसको देखने वाला कोई नहीं होता है। जब जूट मंडी में पहुँचता है, तो उसकी देख-भाल करने वाले ठेगो हो जाते हैं।

अगर किसान पटुवा लेकर मंडी में पहुँच गया और उसको कह दिया गया कि हम नहीं लेगे, तो फिर वह पटुवा लेकर खड़ा रहता है। यह दुर्दशा है उन किसानों की, जो पटुवा ले जाते हैं। जब मार बाजार में पटुवा गाड़ियों में लदा हुआ होता है, तो वे लोग देरी करते हैं, कहते हैं कि ले या न लें, तार धाया है, यह कारण है, वह कारण है। सब गाड़ियाँ घूम रही हैं और सब किसान खुशामद करते हैं कि हमारा पटुवा ले लीजिये, हमारा पटुवा ले लीजिये। बेचारा किसान बीस मील दूर से पटुवा लाद कर मंडी में लाया है। वह फिर उसको बीस मील दूर घर को कैसे ले जाये? उसको कहा जाता है, "तुम्हारा पटुवा इस भाव पर तो नहीं ले सकते हैं, पक्कीस रुपये है, अगर बीस रुपये में दे दो, तो ले लें।" यह हालत है वहाँ की और कोई देखने वाला नहीं है।

श्री स्पीकर महोदय ने को-आपरेटिव्स

के बारे में कहा। हमारे यहाँ को-आपरेटिव्स जारी हैं। मैंने खुद पटुवा उस में रखा है, लेकिन को-आपरेटिव जारी होने के बाद से मिडलमैन ने दो रुपया भाव बढ़ा दिया, ताकि को-आपरेटिव को अनमक्सेसफुल बना दिया जाये और वह ठीक तरह से फंक्शन न कर सके। जहाँ तक उनसे ही सकता था, उन्होंने को-आपरेटिव को पटुवा ले जाने में रोका। अगर इसके बावजूद भी को-आपरेटिव ने पटुवा खरीदा, तो उससे जूट मिल्स एमो-सियेशन पटुवा नहीं लेती। वह अपने मिडलमैन के जरिये लेती है, क्योंकि वे उसके अपने आदमी हैं, ताकि वह मिल का परचेजिंग रेट ज्यादा दिखा सके और कह सके कि हमको पटुवा पक्कीस रुपये के भाव पर मिला है। वहाँ से १७, १८ या २० रुपये तक खरीद हुआ और पांच रुपये मिडलमैन को, जो कि उनका निर्धारित आदमी होता है, मिल गया। इस तरीके में सारे पटुवा के कारोबार में लूट-खसोट का ही सवाल है और भगवान की मरजी से अगर उन लोगों की आपस में कुछ फूट हुई, कुछ कारनिगम हुआ या माल कम हुआ, तो पचास साठ रुपये का भाव उनको मिल जाता है, वरना उनको कौन पूछता है—उन को दस बीस रुपये का भाव ही मिलता है। हम लोग यहाँ पर शिकायत करते रहते हैं कि पटुवा क्यों नहीं खरीदा जाता है, उस का बफर-स्टॉक क्यों नहीं रखा जाता है, मिलवालों ने स्टॉक क्यों नहीं खरीदा।

जहाँ तक शार्टेज का सवाल है, हम लोग मिडलमैन के टच में तो आते हैं, हो सकता है कि जूट मिल्स एमोसियेशन के टच में न आयें। लेकिन वे लोग तो कहते हैं कि मोलह घाने पटुवा है। यह बर-वर हम सुनते हैं। फिर शार्टेज क्या हो जाता है, क्यों नहीं होता है, यह पता नहीं चलता है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ

कि यह इतनी तादाद का सवाल है, इसलिये इस तरफ सरकार को अधिक ध्यान देना चाहिये। इससे हमारा देश जितना फ़ारेन एक्सचेंज कर्म करता है। हम देखते हैं कि पाकिस्तान अपना मार्केट बनाये चला जा रहा है। इन लोगों ने जो पालिसी अख्तियार की है, उसकी वजह से बाहर वाले कोई आर्डर भी प्लेस नहीं करते हैं, क्योंकि उनको इन लोगों का कोई ठिकाना नहीं मिलता है कि किस समय ये क्या कर देंगे।

इस अवस्था में यह आवश्यक है कि इस सारी समस्या को प्रोग्रज की नज़र में देखा जाये। अगर इस रा मैटीरियल की इस देश का प्रार गवर्नमेंट को जरूरत है, अगर वह इस इंडस्ट्री को जिन्दा रखना चाहती है, तो उसको प्रोग्रज के हितों का ध्यान रखना पड़ेगा। उस को इस बात का ध्यान रखना पड़ेगा कि प्रोग्रज को कितनी मशवकत और तकलीफ़ बर्दाश्त करनी पड़ती है। जब रा जूट मंडी में आ जाती है, तो फटकाबाजी चलती है। फटकाबाजी तो हमेशा चलती है—जब पटवा खेत में होता है, तो भी फटकाबाजी चलती है। ये लोग कहते हैं कि पटवा तो बिक गया। अभी वह कटा नहीं, रैटिंग नहीं हुआ, तैयार नहीं हुआ, लेकिन कहा जाता है कि पटवा बिका हुआ है। आप समझ सकते हैं कि इस तरह प्रोग्रज को कैसे मुनाफ़ा हो सकता है।

पनोर प्राइस को फिक्स करने की बात कही जाती है। उसमें भी दिक्कत है। हम समझते हैं कि अगर ऐसा कर भी दिया गया, तो हमें इसमें शक है कि प्रोग्रज को उतना पैसा मिलेगा या नहीं। हम समझते हैं कि जूट के मामले में सरकार को अपने परबेजिंग एजेंट रखने चाहिए, चाहे को-ऑपरेटिव के जरिये से, चाहे किसी और तरह से। उसको गोदाम बना कर उन में बफ़र स्टॉक रखना चाहिए। आज-कल बहुत कमी बढ़ जाता है, कमी कम हो जाता है। जैसा कि ख़ुशर के बारे में किया गया है, पटवा का

स्टॉक हमको रखना चाहिए, ताकि मिल सारा साल चले। हमने यह भी नहीं देखा कि जिस वक़्त काफी पटवा हो, तो मिल का उत्पादन कुछ बढ़ गया हो। सीजन के टाइम में कुछ बढ़ा है।

हम लोग चाहते हैं कि कल्टीवेटर्स को काफी पैसा मिलना चाहिए। आज सब सामान के दाम बढ़ गये हैं। अगर उनको पैसा नहीं मिलेगा, तो वह आखिर खेती कैसे करेंगे? इस कैश क्राप की वजह से उस का सारे का सारा खर्चा, कुल आमदनी इस पर निर्भर करती है। आज सब चीजों, कपड़े लते आदि का दाम बढ़ गया है। जैसा कि श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त ने कहा है, पटवा का कास्ट प्राइस बढ़ गया है, क्योंकि लेबर का दाम बढ़ गया है। एग्ज़िक्यूटिव लेबर बहुत कम मिलता है। लोग अब मिलों में जाने लगे हैं। डेवेलपमेंट का काम बढ़ गया है और बहुत से लोग मिल-मजदूर होकर चले गये हैं। खेती बहुत सफ़र कर रही है। खेतिहर मजदूर अब ज्यादा पैसा मांगते हैं। इसलिये नेचरली कल्टीवेटर्स का सेफ़गाइं, संरक्षण होना चाहिए।

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** I am glad my hon. colleague, Shri Indrajit Gupta, has raised this discussion because it gives an opportunity to us to place before the House exactly the state of affairs that is continuing in the jute mills in West Bengal.

It is being said that so far as the jute mills are concerned, they are not under the control of the State Government and they have got such a pull with the Central Government that they can decide their own course of action and can go scot-free. It is not only being said; it is being proved now. We find the statement by the Chief Minister of West Bengal that this is a cash crop which is very vital to the economy of West Bengal and naturally this state of affairs should not be allowed to continue. But so long these things are allowed to move in their own way under the direction

[Shri Prabhat Kar]

of the Central Government and without their really going into the matter. I would say it is because of the ignorance that they possess or at least manifest evidence of ignorance, if at all.

The other day we had a discussion about the fall in prices of jute. The reply of the Government was that the prices were ruling at Rs. 51. During the last seven days, according to figures given in the papers, the prices are going down and they have gone down to Rs. 36. It is strange that Government do not know about this. I do not know whether these facts are being deliberately concealed or they are represented as the IJMA wants them to be represented. This is the state of affairs.

This block closure is alleged to be due to the shortage of raw jute. As we have pointed out while discussing the matter with the State Government, it may be that in some of the mills there is a shortage of raw jute because of their not properly handling the jute or their having resold it. But in the majority of cases, jute stocks are there and it was not necessary to have to resort to block closure. If it was at all necessary, some jute mills might have to be closed, but the other jute mills may have continued. But the IJMA not only with a view to put pressure on the jute growers but also perhaps to boost up their exports, have impressed upon the Government—or, I should say, forced the Government—to agree to their proposal for block closure.

Today it is being admitted that so far as this allegation of shortage of raw jute is concerned, it is completely a myth in the sense that when raw jute is coming in the market, they are not purchasing it. The result is that prices are going down. If really there is shortage, can anybody say that the raw jute coming in the market will not be purchased? When it is really going abegging in the

market, how is it not possible for them to purchase it? They had three intentions. One was to boost up the prices of export with a view to earning more profit. The other was to deprive the workers, numbering about two lakhs of their legitimate wages. The third thing was that they wanted to see that the prices of raw jute went down. That was the intention of the block closure of the mills and the Central Government was a party to such a demand of the Jute Mills Association, in regard to a commodity which is most important and vital for earning foreign exchange.

Sir, since 1959, when the price of raw jute was going down, we have been urging on the Government to fix the minimum price of jute. They refused to do so. Today the Chief Minister of West Bengal says that there is a case for it and it should be done. A. my hon. colleague, Shri Indrajit Gupta said, this is the year of 1961.—February of 1952 is soon coming. In 1959 it was not thought necessary, although all reasonable requests were made. The House may be aware that at that time the price of raw jute went down to Rs. 30 a maund. Next year, less area was under jute crop and because of that prices went up. Prices no doubt went up, but the poor cultivator did not get even the amount which he should have got. From the cultivator it was purchased for Rs. 50; when it passed from the cultivator to the middleman the price went up to Rs. 70. Because of the high prices which prevailed last year, this year the crop is good; the acreage under jute was larger than last year's. Following their usual method, there has been block closure of the mills. Their policy is to curtail production, not pay the full wages to the workers; when the raw jute comes to the market not to purchase it and the jute grower is forced to sell it at a price fixed by the IJMA. This policy results in the penalisation of the cultivators; they will not be paid their due

share, or fair prices; the workers will have to suffer in the form of loss of wages.

In regard to their attempt at boosting up of prices, there are parties stronger than even the IJMA. It may be possible for the IJMA to force the Government to agree to their demands, but it is very difficult to make the importers from abroad to purchase at the prices fixed by IJMA. The Central Government is having a meeting. But who are the persons who are going over there? Is it the representatives of the sections who are affected, representatives of dealers, shippers, workers or cultivators? No, it is only the IJMA and the Central Government. I do not know whether even all the State Government's representatives who are interested in the jute trade and jute crop would be present. It may be a talk between the IJMA representatives and the Central Government.

Now, an important point arises. This is a very important crop so far as the State of West Bengal is concerned. Enough bungling has been allowed by the inaction of the Central Government. The time has come when the matter will have to be dealt with with a stronger hand. That is why I suggest that so far as the buffer stock is concerned, under no circumstances should they be allowed to be dealt with by the IJMA. Government should take charge of the buffer crop and Government should also fix the minimum price. They should go into the market for purchasing the raw jute and at the same time encourage more and more exports. We have, for the past three days been discussing the Third Plan and speaking about encouragement of exports. Here is a commodity which is one of the most important foreign exchange earners. But it is left at the mercy of persons who have got no other intention but to earn profit and increase their profit at the cost of government revenues, at the cost of workers and at the cost of cultivators. This should not be

allowed. This matter should be borne in mind because under no circumstances the jute cultivators or the jute workers are going to allow such things because they have raised in a movement and they have gone on hunger strike. Today we find that this is the state of affairs in the IJMA..

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member's time is up.

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** One sentence, Sir and I have finished. Now that the problem has been understood by the Government, I hope that they would deal with it squarely so that there may not be any further occasion for such a thing.

**Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat):** Sir, the question of the price of raw jute came up before this House many times from the time of the Korean boom in 1950-51. Repeatedly, the Members of this House, belonging even to this side of the House made the demand that the minimum price of raw jute should be fixed to safeguard the interest of the grower. The Government's ground for the refusal of that demand was that the jute goods were more or less solely an export commodity and so we had to depend upon the export market. Therefore, we cannot fix any minimum price for raw jute. This is a very lame excuse, that they are giving. The year before last, 1959, there was a crisis in the jute market and the price of raw jute fell down to nearabout Rs. 20 and repeatedly from this side also demands were made that the Government should come forward with some proposal of price support. At the last moment, Government came forward with a scheme for the State Trading Corporation to purchase raw jute. That came almost something like a joke because I think the STC could not purchase more than 4-5 lakh maunds of jute. It could not touch even the fringe of the problem. Last year there was a bad crop and the price of raw jute shot up at an abnormally high rate. Not that the whole benefit of this price was

[Shri A. C. Guha]

received by the growers. I think a major share of it went into the pocket of the intermediaries. Then also we tried that something should be done to control the price.

No industry can hope to flourish with such sudden variation in prices of the raw commodities. In 1959 the price was near about Rs. 20 but in 1960 the price went up to about Rs. 60—three times the price of the previous year. Naturally our customers abroad became shy of purchasing it. But the blame is on the Government, their utter negligence and persistent refusal to understand the problem led to this position that now the foreign customers are thinking of substitutes. Some years ago, the problem was not tackled properly and so some jute mills were set up in some foreign countries, particularly European countries. That hampered our jute industry. Pakistan has also started jute mills and they are also producing jute goods which is another handicap for us. We are no longer in the happy position of being monopoly producers of jute—raw or manufactured goods. So, the Government should be all the more careful because the jute goods give us a foreign exchange of Rs. 125 crores to Rs. 135 crores annually, and if properly nursed, they will bring us much more foreign exchange.

This year a crisis has been created practically by the IJMA by starting a sort of pressure tactics. I am not using these words "pressure tactics" by myself. I am quoting it from the words used by the Minister in the Government of West Bengal who was a Member of this House up to 1957. He has used this word, and it has been quoted by the Mover of this motion also. All along the Government's plea has been that the IJMA is a very powerful and well-organised body. I think that that is all the more reason why the Government should be more careful about dealing with the IJMA. In 1950 or 1951, when there

was the Korean boom, I think the Chairman of the IJMA was nominated as the Jute Controller on behalf of the Government of India.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Mr. Walker.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** So, it is practically from the beginning of our Independence that we have been surrendering the jute policy to the IJMA. I do not wish to make any personal insinuation. But, if the Government have taken care to enquire into the personal earnings of the Chairman and other members of the IJMA in those days, if even the income-tax department has made a proper enquiry into it, then, many revelations would have come to the notice of the Government. Anyhow, this is not the first time that I am making these allegations or complaints. I have been repeatedly making them. Only four days ago I made this complaint, namely, that the Government had practically surrendered their initiative as regards the jute industry to the IJMA. The statement laid on the Table of the House on the 16th of this month is a sorry document. It has been drafted by the Secretariat, by people who have hardly any contact with the problem or with the people affected by the jute industry.

About the labourers, I think my hon. friends on that side have made their remarks. Anyhow, even at the time of the block closure, the labourers were getting some lay-off compensation or something like that. But as regards the jute growers, they are practically ruined financially by these tactics resorted to by the IJMA every year at the beginning of the jute season. The price of raw jute has gone down not to Rs. 32 or Rs. 35 per maund—it may be the price at the mill gate—but really to Rs. 25, Rs. 26 or Rs. 27 in the rural market. That is the real price now in the rural market. There is always a big gap between the rural market and the mill price—the gap being filled up by the

intermediaries profit. Even today, I have received a letter that the price of raw jute in the rural market is about Rs. 25 per maund. The cost of production cannot in any case be less than Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 under the present circumstances. Even the Chief Minister of West Bengal has made a suggestion that the minimum price of raw jute should be fixed. I think the Central Government will now take up the matter seriously and try to do something. But immediately some steps should be taken to check the fall in prices of raw jute. The jute growers have not sufficient holding power. They cannot hold the jute in their houses. They must sell it. But if this annual tactics of the Indian Jute Mills' Association is allowed to go on now, then the price will still fall down even though they have now declared that they will start working all the mills. They have got sufficient stock with them. They can be slow in making their purchases. So, something should be done immediately to give a price support or to push up the price of raw jute in the rural markets. I do not mean the raw jute price prevailing at the mill gate.

This industry in all its three phases is a monopoly industry. The intermediaries who are the purchasers of raw jute, the millowners and the shippers or the exporters are all practically the same set of persons appearing in different roles. This monopoly control must be broken. I would suggest that as the scheme was in 1959, the STC should be asked to make purchases of raw jute in rural markets through the warehousing corporations or co-operative societies or whatever machinery they can set up. The private intermediaries should not be allowed to make purchases as and when they may choose. Shri Phanbhusan Sen presents a very pitiable picture of the jute growers. The poor jute grower brings the raw jute to the market from 10 or 12 miles away. The intermediaries say, "We would not purchase it". The poor grower has to sell it at whatever price the intermediaries offer. Such a condition should

not be allowed to continue. Therefore, the STC or some other Government machinery should be put into operation to make purchases of raw jute in rural markets.

Also, the export of jute goods should be taken over by the STC. That is a very much easier thing. I can understand there may be some difficulty in setting up organisations throughout the rural markets in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and certain portions of Orissa and UP also. But as regards export, there is no such difficulty. STC can immediately take up the work of exporting jute goods to foreign markets without leaving it to private initiative.

My suggestion is that a minimum price should be fixed and that should be done immediately, so that this year the jute growers may get a proper and economic price for their production. I know there cannot be any price fixed for all times; it will vary according to market conditions and world demands. The purchase of raw jute should be done immediately from this year through the STC or some other Government machinery. The export of jute goods also should be made through the STC. We should see the position of the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal. This association i.e. the IJMA has been flouting the directives and instructions of the Government of West Bengal and of the Labour Minister of West Bengal. He is a small person and they could have the courage to flout his instructions. It requires a personality like that of Dr. B. C. Roy to cajole the jute mills association to come to some reasonable frame of mind. It is not because of the Government, but because of the personality of Dr. B. C. Roy, I should say. This Government should take a more firm attitude about this jute industry. Otherwise, our whole export of Rs. 130 crores or Rs. 140 crores annually would be in difficulty and we would not know what will happen to it ultimately. Those who are only interested in personal profit of the day should



[Shri A. C. Guha]

not be entrusted with this important monopoly function of purchase, manufacture and export of jute.

**Shri N. B. Maiti (Ghatal):** Sir, this crisis is a mill-made crisis. It has been made by the Indian Jute Mills Association. This crisis has got the most baneful effect on the jute growers of the country. In the chain, the jute growers have been the worst sufferers along with the labour population. This link consists of the Indian Jute Mills Association at the apex, the traders and the middlemen and the labour and jute growers. Unless both the State and Central Governments take adequate measures, it will be very difficult for the industry to survive. The growers of jute have always been the playthings in the hands of the Indian Jute Mills Association. Sometimes they lower the prices and sometimes they push up the prices a little. In this way, year after year they have been suffering. There is no stability in this industry.

18 hrs.

I am very sorry to observe that even the Central Jute Mills Committee is also a hand-maiden in the hands of the Indian Jute Mills Association. It is a thing which helps the industry, and it is monopolised by this Association. What has got to be done in this respect? My hon. friend Shri Gupta has suggested certain things. Shri Guha has also suggested certain

things. I would suggest that two sets of work have got to be taken up in hand by the Government. The Central Government in consultation with the State Government should either fix up a minimum price of jute—Shri Gupta suggested, if I remember correctly, Rs. 45 . . . .

**Shri A. C. Guha:** There cannot be a price fixed for all times; prices will vary according to market conditions.

**Shri N. B. Maiti:** The fixation of price of jute has been a problem for many years. For 20 years or even more this has been there. Therefore, there should be some fixation of price. If the mills do not buy the jute, then I would suggest that Government should enter the field and take over the jute production. My suggestion is that the Government should take upon itself the task of producing jute so that the mills may come to the proper frame of mind.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shri Ghosal:

**Shri Aurobindo Ghosal (Uluberia):** Mr. Chairman, Sir

**Mr. Chairman:** The discussion would be continued tomorrow at 5.0 P.M. The hon. Minister may continue tomorrow.

18.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 26, 1961/Bhadra 3, 1883 (Saka).*