

(d) and (e). No, Sir. No time limit for dealing with the payment of *ex-gratia* grant have been fixed. However every effort is made to dispose of claims as expeditiously as possible.

Nationalisation of Jute Industry

*570. DR. RANEN SEN:

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government are considering the question of nationalising the Jute industry; and

(b) if so, the Central Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) Government have no information on this.

(b) Does not arise.

Subsidies to Organisations

*571. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stop all subsidies to certain organisations to meet their losses;

(b) if so, whether Government have also considered that this slashing of subsidies will embrace even those organisations who are showing an overall profit, though they may be losing in certain operation; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) to (c). In the context of the current difficult financial situation

Government have decided on various economy measures. On August 30, 1974 Government took certain additional measures to effect maximum economy in administrative and non-Plan expenditure of Government. These included instructions regarding grant of subsidies to public sector undertakings. It was decided that subsidies given specifically for carrying out certain special responsibilities which result in losses, even though such undertakings may be earning profits or breaking even on the whole, should be stopped and the undertakings should take the rough with the smooth. Similarly enterprises suffering cash losses were directed to eliminate such losses fully by the end of the next year and in the meantime it was considered desirable to impose a 10 per cent cut on subsidies to meet their cash losses in 1974-75. These instructions exclude the subsidies required to meet cash losses of enterprises which are in the construction phase or operate in certain key sectors like steel, coal, mines, fertilizers, etc. where the pricing policy is a major decision to be taken by the Government.

Increase in Iron-Ore Export

*572. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:
SHRI P. GANGADEB:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the iron ore export; and

(b) if so, by how much would the iron ore export go up in 1974-75?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) and (b). While exports in quantitative terms may be somewhat static, the export earning will register an increase. During 1973-74, our earnings from export of iron ore were Rs. 132.85 crores. The target for the current year, 1974-75, is Rs. 175 crores.