

Funds asked for by J.C.I.

*251. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds asked for by the Jute Corporation of India to carry out its purchasing operations in the current raw jute season;

(b) the amount actually sanctioned so far by Government; and

(c) the estimated quantum of purchases of raw jute with the sanctioned funds?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) to (c) At its Board meeting dated the 31st May, 1976, the Jute Corporation of India had planned a purchase programme of 8 lakh bales for the current season. Government, however, requested the JCI to increase its purchase operations to ensure at least statutory minimum price for the growers. According to JCI's assessment, for carrying out a purchase operation of 12 lakh bales, credit limit of Rs. 46.23 crores would be required. JCI's price support operations will not be allowed to suffer due to financial constraints. To start with JCI had requested the Reserve Bank of India to raise its present credit limit from Rs. 24 crores to Rs. 35 crores. This is being presently discussed between the Reserve Bank of India and Jute Corporation of India.

Financing of Buffer Stocks of Imported Fertilizers by Banks

*253. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has asked commercial banks to finance buffer stocks of imported fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the amount advanced so far for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has asked commercial banks to finance operations of fertilizers imported by Food Corporation of India on a consortium basis.

(b) The amount outstanding on this account under the cash credit limit was Rs. 34 crores as on 2nd August, 1976

Instructions to Public Financial Institutions to cut down Assistance to Industries having Idle Capacity

*254. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to public financial institutions for cutting down their assistance to industries which either already have idle capacity or are likely to have it; and

(b) if so, the gist thereof and the measures being taken to detect such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Government have not issued instructions to the all-India public financial institutions for cutting down their assistance to industries which either already have idle capacity or are likely to have it.

In assessing techno-economic viability of project applying for financial assistance, the public financial institutions take into account the likely demand and supply situation including capacity installed and likely to be installed as also the prevailing

level of utilisation of the installed capacity and reasons thereof. Preference is given to fuller utilisation of capacity already installed rather than to creation of new capacity.

Increase in Foreign Exchange Reserves

258. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a record leap in India's foreign exchange reserves in May and June, 1976;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) whether this increase in foreign exchange reserves will be maintained in the coming months?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). The foreign exchange reserves increased by Rs. 287.51 crores in May and by Rs. 139.10 crores in June, 1976 respectively but these were not record increases.

(c) It is difficult to say whether there will be successive increases of this order in the foreign exchange reserves since that would depend mainly on continued buoyancy of export earnings and inward remittances as compared to the size of payments for essential imports, debt servicing, etc.

अफीम का डोडा चूरा

1740. श्री भागीरथ भंडार : क्या राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) इस समय अफीम के डोडा चूरा का उपयोग किस प्रकार किया जाता है; और

(ख) क्या मध्य प्रदेश क अफीम के डोडा चूरा के कोई उद्योग चल रहे हैं ?

राजस्व और बैंकिंग विभाग के प्रभारी राज्य मंत्री (श्री अण्णु कुमार मुत्तर्जी) :

(क) अफीम के डोडा का चूरा अर्थात् पीसे हुए अथवा चूर्ण बनाए गए पोस्त के चोरा लगे डोडों को वर्तमान में निम्न-लिखित प्रयोजनार्थ इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है :—

(i) अंधाधुंध की देशी प्रणाली में, खाने और बाहर लगाने दोनों प्रकार के उपयोगों के लिए ;

(ii) खाद मंबन्धी प्रयोजनों के लिए ; और

(iii) चिकित्सा और वैज्ञानिक प्रयोजनों के लिए एल्कालायड निकालने के निमित्त विदेशों को निर्यात के लिए ;

(ख) मध्य प्रदेश में इस प्रकार चलाए जा रहे अफीम डोडा चूरा उद्योगों के बारे में सरकार के पास कोई सूचना नहीं है ।

मध्य प्रदेश में आयकर अधिकारियों द्वारा बरामद किए गए आभूषण

1741. श्री गंगा चरण दीक्षित : क्या राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या जनवरी, 1976 से 30 जून, 1976 तक की अवधि के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश में मारे गए छापों के दौरान आयकर अधिकारियों ने आभूषण बरामद किए थे ; और