

various artists and organisations. Under the circumstances, the House will please accept and appreciate that I have already instructed the Secretary who also happens to be the Chairman of the Trade Fair Authority, to immediately see that equitable norms are created and applied when these various stalls are given, and also when these artists are also engaged.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: I have drawn the attention of the hon. Minister about certain reports that appeared in the West Bengal papers. Naturally I know of the hon. Minister that nothing wrong can be expected of him in discriminating any artist group and immediately I wrote to him thereabout. I want to know for clarification so that it goes to the West Bengal press also. What was the reason that the Guha Thakur Group was not given the chance? Is it a fact that because they were given a chance in the Moscow fair and because there were certain complaints, they were dropped? If not, what are the circumstances of their being dropped? What is the reaction of the Government to the press reports?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The hon. Member has written to me also. We have no complaint whatsoever against the Calcutta Youth Choir. There is no question of having any complaint against any group whatsoever. It was a question of system only. There was

certain criticism in several papers that they were not being appointed or engaged. Under the circumstances we cannot take *ad hoc* decisions. The All India Radio is having its own system, the Tousim Corporation is also having its own system. So, the whole question was of creating a system. We had never asked the Calcutta Youth Choir to cancel the contract. It has never happened, nobody will do that. On the contrary, they themselves refused to participate. I told them to reconsider their decision. Unfortunately, it was not done and then we had to make some other arrangement.

#### Earnings from Export of Jute Products

\*286. SHRI SACHINDRA LAL SINGHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the export earnings of Jute Industry during the last three years, (year-wise); and

(b) the action taken up-to-date for the break-through in the exports of the said industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (ARIF BEG): (a) and (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

## Statement

Categorywise exports of Jute Goods for the last three Years

Year	Hessian		Carpet Backing		Sacking		others		Total	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1975-76	248.1	121.04	149.7	80.39	79.0	31.63	39.5	16.26	516.3	249.32
1976-77	248.0	107.57	107.7	56.72	63.5	20.44	33.4	14.51	452.6	199.24
1977-78	263.8	127.52	129.5	66.86	61.8	22.38	38.7	14.57	493.8	231.33

Qty. : '000' tonnes  
Value : Rs. Crores.

Action taken for increasing exports of Jute Goods include:

1. Grant of Cash Compensatory Support on jute goods to make them more competitive in the world market and more remunerative to manufacturers.
2. Setting up of the Development Council to suggest, among others, measures for improving the exports of jute goods.
3. Grant of liberal assistance for identified Research and Development projects for promoting new end-uses and for improving existing products in terms of quality and achieving cost saving through improvement in processing technology.
4. Grant of Soft Loan to jute industry for modernisation and diversification of products.
5. Encouragement of market research to study pattern of demand in the market abroad.
6. Sponsoring of Trade-cum-Study Delegations to cover major existing and potential markets.
7. Holding bilateral and multilateral discussions from time to time with a view to promoting exports.

**SHRI SACHINDRA LAL SINGHA:** From the statement it appears that the export both in quantity and value in 1975--86 was 516.3 and 249.32 respectively. But in 1977-78 it has declined both in quantity and value to 493.8 and 231.33. What is the reason for this shortfall?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):** There was a recession in the jute market and it can be seen from the statement that the jute exports, which had come down to Rs. 199 crores have gone upto Rs. 231.33 crores in 1977-78 and during the current year it is expected that they will go over the figure of the last

year. It is because of the recession and it is also because of the fact that as against the natural fibres, people have started using synthetic fibres and that created certain problems. But now we are boosting the exports of jute.

**SHRI SACHINDRA LAL SINGHA:** What are the steps that have been taken by the Government upto date to increase the export of jute?

**SHRI ARIF BEG:** The steps that have been taken are mentioned in the statement.

**SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA:** It is really heartening to see that the Minister in his reply has stated that the Government are hopeful and have not accepted the defeatist attitude or mentality regarding the exports of jute from India. It has been let out that the Central Government has taken a view that the jute industry has no future and it was reported in Assam that the Central Government, the Commerce Ministry has advised the Assam Government not to go ahead with the construction of two jute mills because the jute industry has no future. I would like to have a specific reply on this point.

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA:** I do not know where from this misapprehension has come up. But we are very clear that the jute industry has good prospects and we would like to encourage not only the jute industry but also the plantation of jute in a big way. Regarding the defeatist mentality, it has been exported to the other side.

**SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA:** Is it a fact that you have advised the Assam Government not to go ahead with the construction of two jute mills?

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA:** I shall take it up with the Minister of Industries. I do not know the facts. The Government would like to encourage the jute industry in this country.

**SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** It is a fact that the jute exports have come down. Is it due to competition from Bangladesh?

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA:** The country is well aware that when the country is bifurcated, the raw jute production was with Bangladesh while the jute mills remained with us. It created competitive conditions. But steps are now being taken to see that our industry should be modernised and competitive.

**News-Item Captioned "No L. I. C. Men On Board"**

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\*287. **SHRI K. A. RAJAN:**

**SHRI SHIV SAMPATI RAM:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item in the Economic Times, dated 15th November, 1978 under the heading "NO LIC MEN ON BOARD" and whether it is a fact that Government have not given effect to the proposal for inclusion of employees' representatives at the Board level;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the principle of employees' participation at the Board level will be implemented?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL):** (a) to (c). While Government have decided in principle on the inclusion of employees' representatives in the LIC Board, it has not been possible so far to implement the decision in the absence of a satisfactory mechanism for selecting the representatives and the matter is under consideration.

**SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** It was the recommendation of the ARC to induct the workers' representatives at the

All-India LIC Board as well as the 41 divisional offices. To unstarred questions put in August, and November, 1973, the same reply was repeated by the Government regarding this recommendation. This recommendation had been made in the larger interest of the efficient running of the LIC and also to pave the way for good industrial relations. Taking into consideration that such a mechanism has been evolved and implemented in certain other public sector undertakings, what is the burdle in implementing this recommendation, which had been made three or four years before? Because it has not been implemented so far, there are various problems connected with that, in this major public sector undertaking. I would like to get a definite reply from the Minister as to when he is going to implement this decision which has been there pending for long.

**SHRI H. M. PATEL:** I think the hon. Member is quite right in saying that great deal of time has elapsed since the decision was taken to have the representatives of the different classes of employees on the Board. This decision was in fact taken as early as 1970. It is quite correct that they have not been able to find any method for selecting the representatives of the workers on the Board. This is because there are different units, and a method has not been found. But, finally, the Minister of Labour, who was helping us in this matter, seems to have persuaded the persons concerned to accept secret ballot, in which case we will be able to do it.

**SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** It is not a problem peculiar to LIC alone. There are a multiplicity of Unions. There are various Unions recognised and unrecognised, and all these things are there in various other sectors also. If I am correct, the Government has implemented it in the case of certain other public sector undertakings. So, if a mechanism can be evolved in consultation with the Minister to take secret ballot, it is all right if not, you