

are well aware that Iran will not be in a position to utilise this iron ore. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what alternative steps he is going to take so that this huge project comes into the picture properly to earn the foreign exchange required for our country.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I would appeal to the House not to take a pessimistic view. I feel that whatever projects have been taken together with the Government of Iran do not face any danger whatsoever. On the contrary, I have no doubt that, with the new relationship that is being established, mutual trade between the two countries will go up and there are no possibilities whatsoever that we shall have to think of alternatives.

SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH: After the emergence of new Iran, our relationship having become excellent with the new government of Iran, will the Government think over the matter of sending a team to look into how best we can improve our trade with Iran?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: It is a suggestion for action, and a good suggestion.

Export cash subsidy to Jute Industry

*64. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) total export cash subsidy paid to the Jute Industry, year-wise, from 1968-69 to 1978-79;

(b) what other financial assistances was given to this industry, year-wise, from 1968-69 to 1978-79; and

(c) details of the industry's export performances in terms of quantity and value, year-wise, from 1968-69 to 1978-79?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAG): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) Cash Compensatory Support on the export of a number of Jute Products was introduced by Government from 1st October, 1975. Amount of Cash Assistance paid to Jute Industry since inception of cash compensatory scheme is indicated below:

| Year (April-March) | Amount (Rs./lakhs) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1975-76 | 199.57 |
| 1976-77 | 702.40 |
| 1977-78 | 1703.64 |
| 1978-79 (Up to 31-1-79) | 1602.70 |

(b) Among other assistance given to the industry are:

(i) Long term loans by Industrial Finance Corporation of India for modernisation at concessional interest rate.

(ii) Soft loan by financial institutions for modernisation of industry.

(iii) Grants given from the MDF for export promotional activities etc.

(c) Details of exports of Jute goods in terms of both quantity and value

year-wise from 1968-69 to 1978-79, are as below:

| Year (April-March) | Quantity (’000 tonnes) | Value (Rs./lakhs) |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1968-69 | 650.1 | 21725 |
| 1969-70 | 568.8 | 20610 |
| 1970-71 | 559.0 | 18993 |
| 1971-72 | 669.6 | 26471 |
| 1972-73 | 578.4 | 24906 |
| 1973-74 | 561.9 | 22679 |
| 1974-75 | 583.2 | 29485 |
| 1975-76 | 516.3 | 24932 |
| 1976-77 | 452.7 | 19924 |
| 1977-78 | 494.1 | 23082 |
| 1978-79 (April-Nov. ’78) : | 270.8 | 13931 (Provisional) |

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The jute industrial tycoons are some of the most pampered children of this Government and also of the previous Government. Let us see how they have been treated. When the overcraft sanctioned was Rs. 100/- they have been given by the Banks Rs. 400/- I have the fullest details of where a particular jute company or jute companies have been given overdrafts even exceeding 900 per cent of the sanctioned overdraft.

Now, the IDPL which is meant to rehabilitate sick industries...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bosu, this is the Question Hour: I am reminding you.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Yes Sir.

The IDPL is meant for sick industries only but jute mills, although not sick, have been given 13.47 crores of rupees by overdraft. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what are

the duties, cesses and taxes that have been abolished during 1968-69 and 1978-79 and the total amount sacrificed by the exchequer as a result thereof.

In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to what he has stated in the statement, that cash compensatory support for 1975-76 was to the extent of Rs. 199.57 lakhs, that in 1977-78, in the regime of this Government, that amount has gone up to Rs. 1703.64 lakhs and in 1978, up to 31st January 1979, it has already touched the 1600 lakhs I would like to know what are the duties, cesses, and taxes that have been abolished during 1968-69 and 1978-79 and the total amount sacrificed by the exchequer as a result thereof.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: As the House may be aware and is aware, jute is one of our major industries and the exports of jute goods had suffered a severe set-back in the year 1966-67.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Why?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: There are many reasons. I am prepared to go into the debate, but unfortunately this is the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish both the Members and the Ministers would remember that!

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: With a view to promote exports we have initiated several measures, because more than 2.75 lakh employees are engaged in this industry and we have invested more than Rs. 300 lakhs, and 45000 looms work on jute. Naturally, in this context we have taken several measures and the concessions that are given are stated in the statement itself. Beyond that if there are any other points the hon. Member would like to discuss, I shall be happy to do so.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Whether the Government has noted the contents of the Sixteenth Report of the Public Undertakings Committee on 'Economic Offences' in Jute Industry which has listed specific cases of severe invoice manipulation and evasion of payment of Central Excise and other Government dues? If so, would the Government consider to withdraw all facilities and assistance that are being rendered to such firms which have been found guilty and listed in this report of Public Undertakings Committee? If so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor may be furnished.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: When any report comes from a Parliamentary Committee, such report is taken with all seriousness by the Government. Whatever action is necessary, on the basis of the Report, will be taken. Concessions will not be given to any individuals. Concessions are given to the industry as such. But the action is taken against individuals. There is no discrimination.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On those Jute Companies and mills

which have been indicted upon in the Government's Public Undertakings Committee Report what action Government propose to take? Do they propose to withdraw the financial facilities to such companies and individuals owning jute mills?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Whatever action is necessary, whatever strict action is necessary, will be taken including these suggestions.

श्री युबराज : जूट उद्योग में केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क कानून के उल्लंघन के सिलसिले में गत वर्ष संसद् की समिति ने प्रस्ताव पारित किया था कि इस बारे में विशेष जांच कराने की आवश्यकता है। ये जूट उद्योग-पति केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क कानून का उल्लंघन करते हैं और ऐसे अपराधियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही करने के लिए समिति ने विशेष जांच कमेटी गठित करने के सम्बन्ध में जो प्रस्ताव पारित किया था, उसके बारे में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

जूट तो पैदा करते हैं किसान। भूमि कलकत्ता में में जो दो महीने की हड़ताल हुई, उससे किसानों को काफ़ी नुकसान हुआ और इस का धमर भंगली फ़मल की बर्बाद पर पड़ेगा। यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि किसानों को इस नुकसान से बचाने के लिए सरकार कौन सी व्यवस्था करना चाहती है।

श्री मोहन धरिया : सभापति महोदय, कार्यवाही समिति के बारे में जो सुझाव पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी ने रखा है, उसके सम्बन्ध में सम्बन्धित मंत्रियों के साथ मैं जरूर चर्चा करूंगा और उनसे कहूंगा कि वे जल्दी से जल्दी कदम उठावें। माननीय सदस्य ने जो दूसरा सवाल उठाया है, वह भी बड़ा गहरा सवाल है कि हमारे जूट उत्पादकों को काफ़ी चोट पहुंची है, और खासकर पचास दिन की हड़ताल की वजह से उन्हें काफ़ी चोट पहुंची है।

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: It is over now.

श्री मोहन धरिया : मुझे मालूम है।

I am happy that this strike has been called off and it has been settled in an honourable way.

मैं ने पश्चिमी बंगाल के मुख्य मंत्री के साथ बातचीत की है। मैं ने सुझाव रखा है कि जैसे महाराष्ट्र में काटन की मानोपली प्रोब्युरमेंट स्कीम चालू है, अगर उसी तरह की जूट की मानोपली प्रोब्युरमेंट स्कीम बनाई जाती है, तो हम उससे उत्पादकों को भी अच्छा न्याय दे सकते हैं और इंडस्ट्री के लिए अच्छे रेट पर जूट भी दे सकते हैं। चीफ़ मिनिस्टर साहब प्राज प्राजे वाले हैं। उनके साथ प्राज मेरी बातचीत होने वाली है। मैं यह धारणा रखना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे जूट उत्पादकों को अच्छा न्याय मिले, इसके लिए ज़िन्दा कोशिश होनी चाहिए, गबनबैठ वह कभी।

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:

From the statement it appears that there are many other assistances given to the Industry. First, long term loans are given by Industrial Finance Corporation of India for modernisation at concessional interest rate. Second, short term loans are given by the Financial Institutions for modernisation of industry. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken care and will inform the House as to what extent this loan has been utilized by the different jute mills? I particularly mentioned about the jute mill in Kanpur which is under the proprietorship of South Zone Company which has been closed what steps Government has taken to see that this loan has been properly utilized? In spite of all these concessions, how these mills could be closed and are still closed and no step has been taken by the Government.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I am sorry, I am not having this information because I do not deal with production of jute. I will take up the matter with my colleagues. For the information of the hon. Member, I may tell that it is related to the Ministry of Industry. If they have not utilised the loan, why they have not done it, if certain mills are closed and if they are not taking advantage of it, why they are not doing it, I will find it out.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Why that loan has not been utilized for modernisation?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I will take up the matter with the Minister concerned.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: I brought to the attention of the Minister an article published in the fortnightly called *This Fortnight* under the heading of "jute looting again" where it has been clearly brought out that most of the big industrialists who are involved in jute including Singhanian, Birlas and others, cases have been filed against them for violation of the Foreign Exchange Rules and

for under-invoicing their export. There is one case against Singhanian who was the former Chairman of IJMA for Rs. 49.50 lakhs. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he has considered that, and in the case of those who are involved in such a racket or against whom cases have been launched, these export subsidy and other help given by the Government to exporters will be totally discontinued.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I shall have to go into the implication of this because whenever we announce assistance, it is for the industry. But so far as such offenders are concerned, Government will have to take serious action against them. I agree with the hon. Member. But whether it is possible for me to have that sort of a scheme, I shall have to look into it.

Gold in Private Possession

*65. **SHRI ABDUL AHAD VAKIL:** Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the approximate total value of gold in private possession in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to ban private and free marketing of gold; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) There is a total ban on the private ownership/possession of primary gold under the Gold (Control) Act. Under the Gold (Control) Act a declaration has to be filed if the total quantity of ornaments articles owned, held, possessed or controlled exceeds 2 kgs. for an individual and 4 kgs. for a family. The total quantity declared according to the above requirement of the Act as on 31-12-77 is 80,718 kgs. The value of the gold comes to Rs. 547.27 crores at the rate of Rs. 678/- per 10 gms. in December, 1977.