

Demand (iii) : There is a requisite mandatory provision to this effect in the Standing Orders and Service Rules in force in the Company and these are being followed by the Management.

Demand (iv) : In accordance with the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, the first bonus will be paid before the end of November, 1968 and the Management have also announced accordingly.

Demand (v) : This is under consideration of the Management of Heavy Electricals (India) Limited.

PRICE OF RAW JUTE

*717. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI B. N. SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices in the raw jute market have been falling below the minimum of Rs. 40 per maund;

(b) whether this is due mainly to the depressing influence of the IJMA's purchasing policy; and

(c) the steps, if any, Government are taking to support the market and to save the jute cultivators from heavy losses ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b). The prices of raw jute have been at times quoting below the minimum price fixed owing to depressed conditions of the jute market.

(c) The State Trading Corporation has stepped up its jute purchases. Government are also examining the feasibility of allowing exports of a limited quantity of jute.

PURCHASE OF RAW JUTE BY STC

*718. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :
SHRI M. SUDARSANAM :
SHRI Y. A. PRASAD :
SHRI N. K. SANGHI :

SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as a measure to prevent the raw jute prices from slumping any further, the STC is planning to make substantial purchases of raw jute;

(b) whether Government are thinking of making arrangements to export raw jute from India;

(c) if so, the considerations in support of the measures to export raw jute which in fact, is not a surplus commodity; and

(d) whether any representations have been received from the jute industry in this regard; and if so, the nature thereof and the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (d). In accordance with Government's announcement of a minimum price for raw jute, the State Trading Corporation has been authorised to conduct purchase operations with a view to maintaining the minimum support price fixed for the current season. The Corporation is accordingly making purchases of jute. In this context, Government have also under consideration the feasibility of allowing exports of a limited quantity of raw jute of varieties/qualities in which there is surplus production this season. The Indian Jute Mills Association have naturally been averse to any jute being allowed for export as in their view there will be practically no exportable surplus. All aspects of the matter are being examined so that the interests of the grower of jute as well as of the mill industry are adequately protected.

INDIAN MICA COMPANY, BIHAR

*719. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :
Will the Minister of STEEL MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :
(a) whether it is a fact that leases of