

Food and Agriculture Minister have asked the manufacturers to give higher prices to the growers of jute; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure fair and remunerative prices of growers of jute?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH):** (a) to (d). The jute and mesta crop in the current season is estimated at about 76 lakh bales. The crop in 1965-66 and 1966-67 was of the order of 57 lakh bales and 65 lakh bales respectively.

The prices of raw jute have at times ruled somewhat below the minimum price fixed owing to depressed conditions of the jute market. Government have taken necessary steps to see that prices do not fall below the minimum price. The State Trading Corporation has entered the jute market and purchased 358,300 maunds of jute through Co-operatives, in addition to purchases by Mills and Jute Buffer Stock Association. The current prices are, however, ruling above the minimum.

The need to assure a steady and remunerative price to the producers of jute in order to ensure a steady output was emphasised at the Symposium.

#### **Industrial Production**

\*174. **SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA:**  
**SHRI O. P. TYAGI:**

Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial production had been much below the expected level during 1967-68;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take to step up industrial production during 1968-69?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED):** (a) The industrial production in certain sectors of industry has been below expectation during the first half of the year 1967-68 though towards the later part of the year there have been visible signs of recovery, in some industries.

(b) The reason for the drop in the industrial output has been, by and large, due to the general recessionary trends in the country.

(c) The measures taken to arrest the drop in industrial production include the review of various developmental programmes including that of Railways with a view to reviving the demand for capital goods to the extent possible; encouraging diversification in the manufacturing programme of the affected industries, emphasis on development of regular export markets through stronger marketing structures both for the public and private sectors; banning of imports to the extent the indigenous capacity can meet the requirements, including a review of imports already authorised but not irrevocably committed and announcement of a liberalised credit policy.

Apart from this, plentiful rains during the year are not only expected to improve production in industries which are based on agricultural raw materials but are also expected to improve the purchasing power for the consumer goods which had lately shown signs of decline.

#### **Donations to Political Parties**

\*176. **SHRI JUGAL MONDAL:**  
**SHRI T. D. RAMABADRAN:**  
**SHRI MAYAVAN:**  
**SHRI D. C. SHARMA:**  
**SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN:**

Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to ban donations by companies to political parties; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be put into operation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to introduce a Bill in the current session for implementing the decision.

#### Expenditure Incurred on Expo-67

\*177. SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any computation has been made of the total expenditure incurred on Expo-67 both in the Indian and foreign currencies;

(b) if so, the amount involved; and

(c) the advantages accruing to India in terms of foreign exchange earnings as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). The final figures of expenditure are not yet available. However, the actual expenditure incurred up to the 30th November, 1967, amounted to Rs. 2,09,95,828.95 (Rs. 1,86,25,121.03 in foreign exchange and Rs. 23,70,707.87 in Indian currency).

(c) Although Expo-67 was not a trade fair but a Universal Exhibition with the theme "Man and His World" and India's participation was in keeping with this theme, business to the tune of C. \$5.5 lakhs (Rs. 36.63 lakhs) approximately was negotiated during the exhibition. Besides, on-the-spot sales amounting to approximately C. \$13.14 lakhs (Rs. 87.62 lakhs) at the Boutiques and C. \$4.86 lakhs (Rs. 32.40 lakhs) at the Indian Restaurant attached to the Indian Pavilion were effected. There have also been a number of trade enquires for both traditional and non-traditional items which are being pursued by the concerned exporters, manufacturers and organisations in India.

#### Production of Lumber Boom in H.M.T.

\*178. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lumber boom has been produced by the Hindustan Machine Tools for launching rockets by the Thumba rocket launching station;

(b) if so, the cost incurred thereon;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange saved on this account; and

(d) the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 28,150.

(c) The cost of importing one boom is about Rs. 45,000. There is thus considerable saving of foreign exchange.

(d) The lumber boom has not yet been tried; the completion of the base and of other components which are being fabricated, is awaited.

#### India United Mills Ltd., Bombay

\*179. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken over the India United Mills Ltd., Bombay;

(b) if so, the financial position of the Mill at the time when it was taken over;

(c) the capital invested by Government to run this mill;

(d) the gross and net profit/loss made/incurred by the Government during the period of its administration of the mill year-wise; and