

(c) The mill has been taken over on lease by the Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation. While the Central Government are of the view that taking over of the management or Nationalisation of jute mills is not the solution for the problems of the jute industry, a series of measures have been introduced to facilitate modernisation and diversification in the jute sector. In the case of Katihar Jute Mills, the State Government can avail of these facilities.

[English]

Capacity in Textiles Sector

3412. SHRI BALVANT MANVAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether textile policy of 6th June, 1985 clearly pointed out the prevailing excess capacity in the textile industry;

(b) if so, the extent of the excess capacity noticed in 1987, 1988 and 1989 in different sectors of textile industry; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Delivery of Imported Sugar

3413. SHRI BALVANT MANVAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government paid a higher rate for import of sugar than one which were

ruling at the international market during 1989, if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) whether a higher rate was paid for prompt and early delivery;

(c) if so, how much sugar was delivered before 20th October, 1989; and

(d) whether suppliers which delivered sugar after 20 October, 1989 were paid less price than the contracted price, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Valid tender offers were higher than the ruling prices in the international market. This was apparently because of a tight schedule prescribed, allowing much shorter time than usual and the insistence on vessels arriving at Indian Ports by prescribed dates due to imperative need of imported sugar being available immediately.

(c) A quantity of 1.42 lakh tonnes of imported sugar arrived at Indian Ports upto 20th October, 1989.

(d) It was provided in the contract that the Buyer may extend the delivery period at a discount as may be mutually agreed to between the Buyer and the Seller. Accordingly, a discount of US\$ 1 per tonne per day has been proposed by the Government for delayed arrivals beyond 20th October, 1989 for reasons other than force measure.

Import of Sugar

3414. SHRI BALVANT MANVAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of parties with whom the orders for import of sugar were placed during Oct./Nov., 1989 could not fulfill the contracts, if so, the details thereof;