

सही नहीं है कि आज जूट के दाम नीचे जा रहे हैं। जूट के जितने दाम आज हैं उतने दाम देश के इतिहास में कभी नहीं थे। पिछले १, २ साल में जूट के दाम बढ़े हैं। जहां एक साल पहले फ्रांसम वोटमस के दाम ३१ रुपये ८ आने थे वहां अब उस के दाम करीब करीब ५६ रुपये हैं।

Shri Ranga: Are any steps being taken in consultation and collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Ministry to step up the production of jute in Orissa and Andhra where at an earlier stage a larger production was made possible by an assurance of economic prices for jute?

Shri Manubhai Shah: All those steps are being taken. Every area which is good and vulnerable for jute production will be given all encouragement.

Shri Ranga: Is it not a fact that the earlier practice has been abandoned and no assurance is being given to those people about payment of any stabilised price for jute?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have already indicated that the ruling prices of jute have been the highest in record, and these are highly uneconomic prices. As my hon. friend Shri Guha pointed out rightly, nothing should be done in a manner which will jeopardise the greatest foreign exchange earning commodity for the country, namely, jute and jute goods.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: May I know whether any compensation will be given to the workers in case the jute mills are closed, because they have already suffered due to the power cut?

Shri Manubhai Shah: All those relevant factors will be taken into consideration. I may recall, Sir, that there is a standing agreement about all these matters.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that these mills have already sealed a certain percentage of loomage and Government have, at the same time, also agreed to an additional

sealing of 8 per cent loomage, may I know whether these steps are not adequate for the Mill Association and whether they are not creating artificial conditions by closing down the mills?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There has been no closure, as I have already said. All these matters will be properly considered before any decision is taken. As a matter of fact, unsealing had taken place to some extent. At one stage, as the House will remember, 19 per cent had been closed, and it has been reduced to 12 per cent. The working hours however had to be reduced. All these will be considered when the situation is reviewed.

Indian Troops in Congo

*1946. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian troops were prevented from entering Ndjill airport by the Congolese soldiers at gunpoint; and

(b) if so, the reactions of the Government of India thereto?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). No, Sir. No such incident as alleged seems to have taken place at the Ndjill (Leopoldville) airport.

Indian Nationals in Cuba

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*1946-A. { **Shri P. G. Deb:**
Shri Arjun Singh
Bhadauria:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian nationals in Cuba are safe; and

(b) if so, the details of the same?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). Our Embassy in Washington is taking such action as is possible but they have pointed out that it is extremely difficult to make enquiries owing to interruption of communications. They have records of 19 per-