

**Request for Government of Orissa for  
Increase in Procurement Price of Raw Jute**

864. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :  
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased  
to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa have  
approached Union Government to increase  
the procurement price of raw jute from  
existing Rs. 231 per quintal to provide a  
remunerating prices to the growers in  
Orissa; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government  
thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI  
KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) The  
matter was raised by officials of the Govern-  
ment of Orissa during the meeting to discuss  
procurement plan held at Bhubneshwar on  
13-9-1985 with Chairman cum-Managing  
Director, Jute Corporation of India.

(b) Minimum support prices are fixed  
by Government taking into account the  
recommendations of the Commission for  
Agricultural Costs and Prices every year.

**Export of Agricultural Items**

865. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN  
SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE  
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Agricultural Commissioners  
in the States will be put in charge of locating  
agricultural commodities for exports and  
promoting their production for this purpose;  
and

(b) if so, the main items of agricultural  
exports Government are planning ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE  
(SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main items of agricultural  
exports identified are cereals such as rice  
and wheat, tobacco, cashew, spices inclu-  
ding cardamom and pepper, oil meals,  
fruits and vegetables and processed foods.

**Export of Foodgrains at Low Price**

866. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be  
pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government  
have decided to export food grains at price  
even below the cost price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would also  
supply foodgrains at the same price to the  
people of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE  
(SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Supply of wheat and rice  
through public distribution system is  
already being made at subsidised rates.

**Import of Corn**

867. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-  
GRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE  
be pleased to state :

(a) whether is a fact that starch  
industry is facing a shortage of corn, the  
basic input material following drought  
conditions in many States;

(b) whether prices of corn have gone  
up to around Rs. 170 per quintal in the new  
season as against Rs. 130 per quintal last  
year;

(c) if so, whether Government propose  
to import corn in view of the low price of  
corn—Rs. 120 per quintal in the interna-  
tional market; and

(d) if not, the justification thereof and  
the measures Government propose to take  
to meet the shortfall ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE  
(SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, except in states of