

(b) whether the Indian Jute Mills Association has pointed out the difficulties faced by this industry, and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove the difficulties to ensure smooth development of this industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) to (c) There is no crisis in the Jute Industry. The Industry is currently faced with two main problems, namely (i) shortage of raw jute resulting from the short crop in the current season and (ii) their competition in foreign market from synthetic products of Bangladesh.

2 In order to meet the current shortage of fibre a contract has been concluded for the import of 2 lakh bales of jute from Bangladesh. Further imports are also contemplated. Government have already reduced the export duty on jute primary carpet backing by Rs 400 per tonne to make it competitive with synthetics. The other remedial measures contemplated are (a) research and product development, (b) promotion and publicity and (c) provision of adequate funds to meet the requirements under the items (a) and (b).

Crisis in Kandla Free Trade Zone

737 SHRI R. S. PANDEY Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Kandla Trade Zone is facing crisis due to certain difficulties being experienced by the traders there;

(b) if so, whether Government have made investigations into such reports; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the steps taken to stabilise conditions there in order to earn more foreign exchange by increasing trade?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) to (c). No, Sir. But some entrepreneurs have recently brought to the notice of Government certain practical difficulties coming in the way of better performance. Government are seized of the same and the matter is receiving due attention.

System of Recruitment to the various posts of Scheduled Banks

738 PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for having a Public Service Commission for making recruitment to the various posts of Scheduled banks in India in view of many complaints regarding the present system of recruitment in these banks;

(b) if so, the date by which a decision in this regard would be taken, and

(c) if not, whether Government have any other alternative proposal to retain the confidence of the people in recruitment policy of these banks which has become an object of severe criticism?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The recommendation of the Banking Commission to set up statutorily a common recruitment agency for all the public sector banks for recruitment of staff of their banks both at clerical and junior officers level, is still under consideration.