

ANNEXURE VII

Copy of letter, dated the 26th February 1954, from Shri K. D. Jalan, Calcutta, to the Chairman, Jute Enquiry Commission.

"I would like to invite your kind attention to the discussion we had on the 19th inst. in your office, when the Jute Enquiry Commission gave me an opportunity to place my views before them on various problems confronting the industry. Since then I have further given my consideration to the question of freight rates, one of the items of our discussion.

I made an attempt to explain to you how the exorbitant increase in rates for carrying jute from Pakistan and Assam to India substantially added to the cost of jute and jute goods. In fact this burden was never felt so much as today because of the comparatively weak position of Indian Jute Industry in the present competitive and buyers' market. I submitted to the Commission at the time of our meeting, a statement showing the increase in rates by Railway and with this letter I am enclosing two statements showing the increase in the rates of the Steamer Companies. In this respect it is surprising to note that while for carrying jute from Pakistan and Assam to India the Steamer Companies have increased the rates by 200 per cent. on an average, the carrying charges for Jute from India or Pakistan to U.K. and Continental countries have increased only by 80 per cent. There is another aspect of this increase too. The charges for carrying Jute for a distance of 475 miles i.e., Narayanganj to Calcutta are Rs. 8-0-6 per bale of 5 mds. and for a distance of about 8,500 miles i.e., from India or Pakistan to U. K. and Continental countries only Rs. 18-11-0. Even after making allowance for the overhead expenses which would be comparatively low in case of long distances it is difficult to account for such a big difference."

Increase in Carriage Rates by percentage.

For carrying jute to India.

For carrying jute to U. K. and Continental countries.

1-3-40 12½ % over the rates of 1939

1-2-47 Further 12 1/2 % increase

1-12-47 12 1/3 % increase was replaced by extra charge of 75%

1-11-51 plus Coal sur-charge of 25%

1-11-51 Plus terminal charge of one anna per maund.

1942 8 3/4 % over of 40-41.

Sep. '51 38 1/2 % over rates of 46-47.

Oct '51 Further increase by 16%.

4 Mds. bales.

Station from	Station to	Pre-war Rates.	Rates from 1940-46 with increase of 12 1/2 surcharge			Current rates from Feb. '47 inclusive of 75% surcharge & terminal charge -1/4/- per bale			Percentage of increase.
			Rs	As	Ps	Rs	As	Ps	
1. Dhubri .	Calcutta .	2 5 7	2 10 3	7 3	12 0	230			
2. Kholabandha .	„	3 1 1	3 7 3	8 9	8 180				
3. Palasbari .	„	3 1 1	3 7 3	9 8	8 211				
4. Gauhati .	„	3 10 11	4 2 6	10 0	0 206				
5. Kharupetia .	„	4 4 8	4 13 6	10 0	0 148				
6. Narayanganj .	„	2 1 1	2 5 6	6 12	0 Inclusive of coal surcharge of 25%	226			
7. Sarisabari .	„	2 2 8	2 7 0	7 0	4				

Note: A Custom examination charge of -/1/- per md. in booking from Stations in India and -/1/6 per md. in booking from station in Pakistan to be levied in addition with the current rates per md.
Rates for carrying Jute from India and Pakistan to U. K. and Continental Countries.

1940-41 80 sh.	1942 87 sh.	Present Rates. 144 sh.	% of Increase. 80
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