

MINUTE OF DISSENT BY SARVASHRI S. A. TECKCHANDANI
AND A. P. MATHUR.

We consider that it would not be appropriate to discuss the question of fixing minimum prices for raw jute in this report. The reasons are as follows:—

- (i) The question regarding fair prices was fully considered by the Jute Enquiry Commission in 1954, and their recommendation was that it would not be proper to fix a minimum price for raw jute because statutory price control would be undesirable for an industry which sells more than 80 per cent of its production in overseas markets where it has to face growing competition. This recommendation was accepted by Government.
- (ii) The question of fixing reasonable prices of agricultural products has again been considered only recently, and the decision taken has been announced in the press note of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture issued on the 14th June, 1957¹. It is clearly stated in that Press Note that, when prices are running high as they are at present, it is not necessary to fix and announce economic prices for agricultural products. This decision applies to jute also.

2. Having discussed threadbare the question of minimum prices of jute twice recently and taken the decision not to fix any economic price for jute, we do not think it necessary to go over this matter again. We believe that the Government decision incorporated in the Resolution dealing with the recommendations of the Jute Enquiry Commission fully explains the Government attitude towards this matter. We believe that establishment of multipurpose cooperative societies of jute farmers and other measures like the distribution of better seeds and manures, employment of improved agricultural methods, better retting facilities, etc., will go a long way towards increasing the production of jute and improving its quality rather than fixation of minimum prices which is neither desirable nor practicable.

S. A. TECKCHANDANI
A. P. MATHUR

¹ (For full text of the Press Note please see Appendix A-I.)