

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

**1.1. Appointment of the Committee.**—The Conference on Promotion of Jute Production, held in the Ministry of Agriculture on 12th January 1957, recommended that a Committee be appointed to consider, *inter alia*, the question of requirements of jute and mesta by the Indian jute mills. Accordingly, a Committee was constituted under Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Office Memorandum No. 5-16/57-Com. II, dated the 7th March, 1957, with the following members:—

1. Dr. S. R. Sen, Economic & Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Food & Agriculture—Chairman.
2. Shri S. A. Teckchandani, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
3. Shri A. P. Mathur, Joint Chief Controller of Exports & Imports and Jute Controller, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
4. Shri K. N. Agha, Secretary, Indian Central Jute Committee.
5. Shri K. C. Basak, Director, Economic Research Indian Central Jute Committee.
6. Shri J. S. Sarma, Deputy Economic & Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Food & Agriculture.

**1.2. Due to unavoidable circumstances, Shri J. S. Sarma could not participate in the enquiry and Dr. S. B. L. Nigam, Assistant Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, was appointed in his place as Member-Secretary of the Committee.**

**1.3. Terms of Reference.**—The terms of reference of the Committee were as follows:—

- (i) To consider the requirements of the jute mills in respect of the various qualities of jute and mesta;
- (ii) To assess the extent of availability of various qualities of jute and mesta in India including the stocks with mills;
- (iii) To determine the quantum of raw jute to be imported from Pakistan and to examine the possibilities of stopping or staggering imports from Pakistan of those varieties of raw jute of which there is enough production in India;
- (iv) To consider as to what extent the Indian jute mills should be allowed stock piling and have carry-over stocks; and
- (v) To work out and recommend the proportions in which mesta and jute should be grown, particularly whether and how far the growth of mesta should be encouraged in any specified parts of the country.

**1.4. Method of Enquiry.**—The Committee held its First Meeting early in March, 1957 when it discussed the plan of its work. It was also decided at this meeting to collect from the State Governments all readily available information about the variety-wise production of jute in the various States

and also to contact the associations of jute mills, jute dealers, baler's and shippers in Calcutta in order to ascertain as much information as possible about the variety-wise production, consumption, stocks, etc., of raw jute. The next meeting of the Committee took place in Calcutta from 15th to 17th April, 1957 when representatives of the Indian Jute Mills Association, the Jute Balers Association, the Gunny Traders Association, the Jute Fabric Shippers Association, the Bharat Jute Sellers Association and the Bengal Jute Dealers Association were interviewed in the Office of the Indian Central Jute Committee. The Committee had also the benefit of discussion with some of the concerned officers of the Indian Central Jute Committee and of the State Governments. The members of the Committee also visited two jute mills in Calcutta with a view to ascertaining the extent to which mesta was used in the production of Sacking and Hessian as well as to obtain informally the views of the technical men in the mills on the possibility and desirability of admixture of mesta with jute.

**1.5. Short-term and long-term aspects.**—The Committee considered the problem from two points of views, short-term aspect and long-term aspect. For the short-term aspect, it examined the demand and supply position of raw jute during the next season, *i.e.*, 1957-58, while for the long-term aspect, the various terms of reference were considered in so far as the position during the Second Five Year Plan period is concerned. On the basis of the discussions held with the various jute interests at Calcutta on 16th and 17th April, 1957 the Chairman of the Committee gave an outline of the short-term measures, which in the view of the Committee, were to be taken immediately for improving the production and quality of jute during 1957-58 season, to the meeting of the State Governments' representatives, held at Calcutta, under the Chairmanship of the Vice-President and Additional Secretary, ICAR, on 18th April, 1957. A gist of the short-term recommendations made by the Chairman at this meeting, is given in Appendix A-IV.

**1.6. The Final Meeting of the Committee** took place on 6th July, 1957 when the Report was finalised.

**1.7. Plan of the Report.**—We have divided our Report into nine Chapters. After a brief Introductory Note, we have examined in the Second and Third Chapters the requirements and availability of raw jute and mesta during the Second Plan period. In these Chapters we have also tried to examine the variety-wise requirements and availability of raw jute and mesta; the deficiency in supply has been worked out tentatively and some suggestions have been offered for meeting it as early as possible. In the next Chapter, the policy which in our opinion should be followed with regard to the quantum and staggering of imports of raw jute from Pakistan, has been explained. The important problem of mesta production has been considered by us in the Fifth Chapter. In the Sixth Chapter the question of fixation of minimum price of jute and problems connected with it have been considered. The stock policy of mills with regard to raw jute has been discussed in the Seventh Chapter. The eighth Chapter deals with some measures for the improvement of quality, marketing and transport of raw jute. Some of these may not fall directly within our terms of reference but since they are important matters and have a bearing on the issues referred to us, we have thought it fit to include them in the Report. In the last Chapter we have given a summary of our conclusions and recommendations.

1.8. Since the Government desired to have the views of the Committee as early as possible, we have confined ourselves to the basic problems which concern today the production of raw jute and mesta in the country. We could not obviously examine all the aspects of the jute economy of the country, particularly those facing the jute goods industry as neither our terms of reference warranted such a detailed examination nor was the short time available to us sufficient for the purpose.

1.9. We wish to convey our thanks to the various representatives of the trade, particularly the Chairman of the Indian Jute Mills Association, who responded to our invitation most ungrudgingly, and offered their advice on the various problems facing the raw jute economy at the moment.

1.10. We wish also to record our appreciation of the assistance that we have received from our Member-Secretary, Dr. S. B. L. Nigam, both in the course of the enquiry and in drafting the report.