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Title: Need to take steps to revive jute industry in West Bengal.

**SHRIMATI LOCKET CHATTERJEE (HOOGHLY):** West Bengal has always been famous for its jute production. Our State accounts for eighty per cent of the jute produced in India and employs one-fourth of its population in jute mills. Hooghly, the place I belong to, has the maximum concentration of jute mills and is known as the jute belt of West Bengal. I want to bring before this House, the hardships faced by the jute mill workers of not only Gondapara but of West Bengal. The management and the owners of the jute mills are to be held responsible for these hardships. They exploited the workers by giving them dismal wages and increased their working hours long time back before closing the mills down completely and forcing them into unemployment. Neither the owners run the mill nor do they sell it to others. The mills that are running, pay no gratuity or provident funds and the skilled labour are paid less than unskilled labour. Agitation and strikes are common but none of their demands are met. Lack of modernisation and the industry's failure to evolve is also a major reason for closing down of mills. An awareness campaign is also required to promote the eco-friendly jute. I want the Government to take necessary steps to revive the jute industry of West Bengal.