

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding plight of jute mills and jute growing farmers.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH (BARRACKPUR): Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Textile Minister to the jute Industry in West Bengal. The jute industry is going down, and the employees of this industry have lost their jobs in large numbers. The bureaucracy is fully responsible for the plight of jute farmers and jute mills. It is because of a big difference in jute prices between the Government price and the market price, mediator in the market gets full benefit, and makes huge profit, which actually belongs to farmers and jute mills. For the first time in the history, the Jute Commissioner had fixed the rate of jute in September 2021 at Rs.6500 per quintal while the market price stood very high at around Rs.6700 to Rs.9000 per quintal, as per the Jute Balers' Association. If the farmers do not get fair price for their crop, they will be encouraged to divert cultivation of jute to other crops. I request the hon. Textile Minister to please look into the matter, and save jute mills and their workers, who suffer due to such fixation of rate. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, through you, I request the Government to look into this issue of public importance.