

Year	Quantity	Value
Apr.-March	(000 tonnes)	(Rs. in crores)
1982-83	329.5	201.85
1983-84	233.5	163.71
1984-85	264.7	299.85

Jute goods are exported mainly to USA, Canada, Argentina, EEC Countries, USSR, and other East European Countries. Japan, Australia, South Korea, New Zealand, Iran, etc. During 1982-83, export of raw jute was 0.72 lakh bales valued at about Rs. 335 lakhs. Thereafter there was practically no export of raw jute during 1983-84 and 1984-85 because of shortage of raw jute in the country.

(c) The average annual consumption of raw jute is about 79 lakh bales (each bale of 180 kg.). The annual domestic consumption of jute goods is around 9-10 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e). In order to develop the export of jute goods and to retain foreign markets for jute goods for earning foreign exchange, the Government have taken following steps :

- (i) Providing higher CCS to jute carpet backing cloth and yarn on the basis of matching performance by the industry;
- (ii) Formation of STC Jute Consortium on 50 : 50 loss sharing basis for exports of Carpet Backing Cloth to North America;
- (iii) Encouraging development of exportable products through R and D efforts; and
- (iv) Constituting a new JMDC and a Jute Fund out of proceeds of jute cess to give boost to R and D efforts and export promotion.

Measures to check downward Trend of Jute Prices

2765. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the big shortfall in the raw jute crop in the last three succes-

sive years, Government have asked the Jute Corporation of India to create a buffer stock which would be useful not only in stabilising the price of raw jute at levels which are remunerative to the growers but also useful for jute mills;

(b) if so, its outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the downswing in jute prices this year has alarmed all quarters;

(d) if so, whether Government have directed the Jute Corporation of India to start a massive price support intervention as soon as jute prices at upcountry centres tend to move down below the statutory prices;

(e) the target set for the jute procurement by the Jute Corporation; and

(f) how for the Jute Corporation has been able to prevent 'distress' sale of jute in West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b). Although a good jute crop is exceed during the current jute seasons 1985-86, it is as yet too early to make an accurate estimate of the crop. A decision on creation of a buffer stock can be taken only after an accurate estimate of the size of the jute crop becomes available.

(c) to (f). In view of the expectations of a good jute crop, the raw jute prices have started declining but they are presently reported to be higher than the minimum statutory price announced by the Government for the current jute season 1985-86. The Jute Corporation of India has been made reasonable to undertake price support operation to the extent necessary. There are 183 purchase centres run by JCI and another 240 run by the cooperative in various jute and mesta growing States which could be utilised for procurement operations as and when required. The Corporation has geared itself with men, machinery and money in all these centres to start procurement operation. However, no price support price operation has been necessary so far in West Bengal.