

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3300  
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002  
JUTE PRODUCTION IN WEST BENGAL  
AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the total area in West Bengal covered by cultivation of jute/mesta during the last three years;
- (b) the total amount of assistance provided by the Government during the above period for research, input and development work for jute and mesta; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide adequate remunerative price to the growers of jute/mesta?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The area under cultivation of jute and mesta in West Bengal during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 was 622.0 thousand hectares, 622.8 thousand hectares and 623.9 thousand hectares respectively.

(b): To increase productivity and quality of fibre, a centrally sponsored scheme on Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP) with 100% central assistance was in operation since 1987-88 in the jute/mesta growing states including West Bengal. From 4th October, 2000, the scheme on SJDP has been subsumed under Macro Management Scheme, which gives States the flexibility to implement programmes depending on the local requirements. The financial assistance provided to West Bengal under SJDP during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 (upto 4th October, 2001) was Rs.55.00 lakh and Rs.35.00 lakh respectively.

The amount of assistance provided to All India Coordinated Research Project on Jute & Allied Fibres, Barrackpore and the Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres, Barrackpore during 1999-2000 to 2001-02 is given below:

(Rs. lakh)

Project/Institute	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
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All India Coordinated Research Project on Jute & Allied Fibres, Barrackpore	15.61	43.46	42.07
Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres, Barrackpore	100.00	208.35	200.00

(c): In order to protect the interest of farmers, the Government announce Minimum Support Price (MSP) for different varieties of raw jute every year. If the prices touch the MSP level, the Government authorize Jute Commissioner of India to undertake price support operations by procuring jute from the farmers at MSP.