

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4845
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2010
USE OF SYNTHETIC BAGS
Elangovan Shri T.K.S.

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a rampant rise thereby in the use of synthetic bags of packaging by the sugar factories thereby violating the order issued under Jute Packaging Materials (JPM) Act and as a result the jute cultivation has severely been affected;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken action to urge upon sugar industries to use Jute instead of synthetic bags under the JPM Act; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to improve jute cultivation in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SMT. PANABAACA LAKSHMI)

(a): Indian Jute Mills Association has informed that sugar factories are using synthetic bags for packing sugar in violation of the existing order. As per the estimates of Jute Advisory Board, in 2010-11 the production of raw jute is likely to increase to 107.0 lakh bales from 90.0 lakh bales estimated for 2009 -10 season.

(b): Government of India, Ministry of Textiles had issued an Order under JPM Act, 1987 bearing S.O. No. 2094(E) dated 27-08-2010 stipulating that 100% foodgrains and sugar will be packed in jute bags during 2010-11 (July-June). For implementation of the Order in the sugar sector, Ministry of Textiles has issued a letter dated 18-10-2010 to all sugar mills with a copy of the Order dated 27-08-2010 issued under JPM Act, 1987 directing to comply with the stipulations contained in the Order.

In addition, Ministry of Textiles has also requested Department of Food & Public Distribution vide letter dated 24-09-2010 to issue instructions to all sugar factories to use jute bags for packing sugar.

(c): The Action Plan to improve jute cultivation in the country inter-alia include:

(i) Jute Technology Mission (JTM) with an outlay of Rs.355 crore is being implemented during the 11th Plan Period. Under the JTM, several schemes are operational under the Mini Mission I, II & III which benefit jute growers and encourage them for jute production. Mini Mission-I aims towards strengthening agriculture research and development in jute sector for improving the yield and quality. Mini Mission-II is targeted towards transfer of improved technology and agronomic practices in production and post harvesting phase. Under Mini-Mission-III, market linkage of raw jute is provided in all jute growing states.

(ii) Minimum Support Price for raw jute and mesta is fixed every year to encourage farmers to grow more jute.

(iii) Jute Corporation of India has been distributing certified seeds to farmers for increasing productivity for which subsidy is being provided by National Jute Board.

(iv) In order to encourage jute production, Government has continued the policy for compulsory packaging of foodgrains & Sugar in jute.