

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:84

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011

JUTE PRODUCTION

Ajmal Shri Badruddin; Roy Shri Mahendra Kumar

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of jute in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of distress sale of jute and jute products in West Bengal, Assam and the North-Eastern States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the mechanism in place to ensure Minimum Support Price for jute/jute products so as to ward off any hardships to the farmers; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to alleviate the hardships of jute farmers across the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.84 TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.11.2011.

(a): State-wise production of raw jute in the country during the last three years and the current year are given below:

(In thousand bales of 180 k.g per bale)

States	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11#	2011-12##
--------	---------	---------	----------	-----------

Assam	647.5	715.3	652.0	
-------	-------	-------	-------	--

Bihar	1054.8	1118.4	1127.1	
-------	--------	--------	--------	--

Jharkhand	0.0	0.8	0	
-----------	-----	-----	---	--

Meghalaya	34.6	34.7	0	
-----------	------	------	---	--

Nagaland	1.3	2.0	0	
----------	-----	-----	---	--

Orissa 19.9 30.4 36.4

Tripura 3.7 3.8 0

West Bengal 7872.6 9325.0 8137.5

Others 0 0 42.1

Total 9634.4 11230.4 9995.1 10586.0

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Economics & Statistics.

4th advance estimates.

1st advance estimates. State-wise production has not yet been estimated.

(b) & (c): Yes, there have been instances of fall in the prices of raw jute in recent months. Raw jute of different grades is being purchased by the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) under the MSP operation undertaken by them. This year till 21.11.2011, JCI has purchased 31,397 bales (56,515 quintals) of raw jute from the farmers through its various purchase centres in the jute growing areas. As a result, the prices of jute were not allowed to fall below the MSP i.e. Rs.1675 per quintal (TD-5 ex-Assam grade). Moreover, the Government of West Bengal has provided a special bonus of Rs.100 per quintal irrespective of the grade and the location of the production for jute to be procured by the JCI during jute year 2011-12 and this bonus is being passed to the farmers of West Bengal.

(d): The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) is the nodal agency of the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India for procurement of raw jute through its 171 purchase centres and State cooperative bodies in all major jute growing states at MSP declared by the Govt. of India. The Jute Corporation of India started Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations from 12-10-2011. Till 21-11-2011, 31,397 bales (56,515 quintals) of different grades of jute have been procured from farmers at an average price of Rs. 1644/- per quintal. Due to the mechanism in place of procurement of raw jute by JCI, the prices are not allowed to fall below MSP so as to avoid hardship to the farmers.

As regards jute products, there is no Minimum Support Price.

(e): Government has taken various steps from time to time to alleviate the hardships of jute farmers across the country. Some of important steps are as under:

(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) National Jute Board and Jute Corporation of India are working on projects with National Institute of Research on Jute & Allied Fibre Technology (NIRJAFT) and Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres (CRIJAF) to develop better jute seeds and to improve agronomical practices for jute cultivation.

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

(iv) Jute Corporation of India and National Jute Board has been distributing certified seeds to farmers for increasing productivity.

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