

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4076

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012

JUTE BAGS FOR PACKAGING OF FOOD

Banerjee Shri Ambica; Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to mandatory use of jute bags for packing of the food articles;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the existing provisions of the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987;
- (c) whether the Indian Jute Mill Association has demanded compulsory use of jute packaging in food articles;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of jute goods; and
- (e) the efforts being made by the Government to bring some more products under the jurisdiction of the said Act in order to promote the jute industry alongwith funds allocated for promotion of the jute industry during the last three years?

Answer

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

(a): There is no such proposal of the Union Government to mandatory use of jute bags for packing of the food articles.

(b): Does not arise. As regards the existing provisions of the Jute Packaging Materials

(Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act), the JPM Act defines that "Commodity" means any essential commodity or any article manufactured or produced by any scheduled industry. So the commodity to be packaged in jute has to be an essential commodity as per Essential Commodities Act, 1955 or a product of any scheduled industry under Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

(c): No such demand has been received from Indian Jute Mill Association. (d) & (e): Government has taken various steps from time to time to increase the production of jute goods and to promote jute industry. Some of important steps are as under:

(i) Jute Technology Mission (JTM) with an outlay of Rs.355.55 crore is being implemented. 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. Mini Mission-IV provides modernization of jute industry, upgradation of skills and market promotion.

The year-wise expenditure under JTM during 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 has been Rs.46.22 crore, Rs.45.60 crore and Rs.74.93 crore respectively.

(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 bags.

(iv) Jute Corporation of India and National Jute Board (NJB) 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.

(vi) Creating awareness regarding various schemes being implemented for promotion of jute and jute products.

(vii) Participation in the export promotion fairs for promotion of jute diversified products. Besides, marketing assistance is being extended to the exporters for participating in different promotional events of the NJB.

(vii) Establishment of Jute Service Centre (JSC) creates an opportunity for production and marketing of Jute Diversified Products; and thus creates an alternate market for jute products. To that extent, establishment of JSC creates demand for jute and thus helps production.