

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4885
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
PROCUREMENT OF JUTE
Deka Shri Ramen

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed an incident of non- procurement of jute by Government Agency resulting a clash between private buyers and jute cultivators in Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to procure jute from the cultivators directly;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Since the price of raw jute prevailing in the comparable period last year was higher, the farmers in the Darrang District of Assam felt aggrieved and blocked the National Highway passing through that area on 10.10.2011 demanding Government intervention for increase of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of raw jute. There was a police firing to clear the national highway in which four persons are reported to have died. The Ministry immediately took up the issue with Govt. of Assam and simultaneously directed Jute Corporation of India (JCI) to start MSP operation in Assam round the clock. JCI started the MSP operation in Assam from 26.08.2011 and major operations started w.e.f. 12.10.2011. Till date, JCI has procured about 2.30 lakh quintals of different grades of raw jute from farmers under MSP, out of which 32831.78 quintals of raw jute were procured in Assam. Due to the mechanism in place for procurement of raw jute by JCI, the prices are not allowed to fall below MSP so as to avoid hardship to the farmers.

(c) to (e): 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 Departmental Purchase Centres (DPCs) and State Cooperative bodies in all major jute growing states at MSP declared by the Govt. of India. As per the mandate, the JCI procures the jute directly from the farmers who come to sell their raw jute at its DPCs and other Centres operated by State Cooperative Bodies.