

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:327

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012

JUTE PACKAGING MATERIALS

Dastidar Kakli Ghosh;Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to relax the compulsory jute packing norms and make amendments/modifications in the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act), in respect of various foodgrains including sugar, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the requirement/demand of bio-degradable jute material for packaging sugar and foodgrains has been reduced during the last three years and the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the production/ consumption of jute bags during the above period, State-wise and the steps taken by the Government to address the problems of jute growers;

(e) whether the Government is considering alternative packaging material in place of jute for packaging of the above commodities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with any adverse impact on the jute growers/ workers in the jute producing States like West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Bihar and the follow up action taken by the Government to rehabilitate the workers?

Answer

(MINISTER OF TEXTILES)(SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 327 TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2012 REGARDING JUTE PACKAGING MATERIALS RAISED BY SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR AND DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR.

(a): No, Madam. The Government is not considering any proposal to make amendment/ modification in the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPMA).

(b): Does not arise.

(c): The packaging of sugar and foodgrains has been decided in keeping with the interests of production of raw jute and jute packaging material. The jute material supplied for packing sugar and foodgrains is given at Annex-I, which has increased from year to year. The demand for bags in the current jute year 2012-13 (July, 2012 to June, 2013) far exceeds the supply committed by the Jute mills. The indented quantity for jute bags, as per the commitment by the jute mills, over the bags actually supplied by the mills, viz. backlog, stood at approximately 1.20 lakh bales as on 30th November, 2012, and for the remaining period supplies committed by the mills fall short by another 4 lakh bales over the required quantity projected by the foodgrain procurement agencies of the States.

(d): Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above. The data relating to jute bags production state-wise is given in Table-I of Annex-II. The data of statewise consumption of jute bags is maintained only for foodgrains and is given in Table-II of Annex-II. To ensure the protection of interest of jute growers, Govt. fixes the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for jute every year. In addition, through the Jute Technology Mission (JTM), Government has been promoting Research & Development (R&D), better seeds and better technologies for retting and greater infrastructure support for jute growers.

(e): No, Madam. The Government is not considering mandatory packing in alternative packaging material in place of jute for packaging of the above commodities.

(f): Does not arise.