

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1188
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2009
USE OF JUTE BAGS
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas; Tarai Shri Bibhu Prasad

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to dilute the reservation norms for compulsory use of jute bags by 25 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the impact of diluting reservation norms on the jute growers and industry; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): At present there is no proposal with the Government to dilute the reservation norms for compulsory use of jute bags by 25 per cent.

(c) & (d): The reservation for Jute Packaging Material for packaging of foodgrains under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 leads to consumption of around 58% of the jute produced in the country. By bringing into effect the provision of JPM Act the Government provides relief to 37 lakh workers employed in Jute Mills and ancillary units as well as support the livelihood of around 40 lakh farm families. Besides, it helps to protect the environment because jute is a natural, biodegradable and reusable fibre. The dilution, if any, is affected in the packaging norms only after consultation with all the stakeholders to avoid disruption of foodgrain procurement in the country.