

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5230

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2014

JUTE PACKAGING MATERIAL

Dastidar Dr. (Smt.) Kakoli Ghosh;Dastidar,Dr. (Smt.) Kakoli Ghosh

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether reservation for jute packaging material has been reduced to 20% and 90% for packing of sugar and foodgrains, respectively;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has approved the plastic bags as an alternative packaging material;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the measures adopted to dispose off such packing materials which are bio-non degradable;
- (e) whether the Government has implemented any rehabilitation policy for the industrial and agricultural workers who are adversely affected due to such reduction in reservation in various parts of the country including Assam, Bihar and West Bengal; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such jute workers benefited/likely to be benefited by the said policy?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): The reservation in the Jute Year 2012-13 (1st July, 2012 to 30th June, 2013) was minimum 90 percent and minimum 40 percent for foodgrains and sugar respectively. Taking into account the availability of raw jute, production capacity of the jute mills, previous years performance of jute mills and the projected demand of the jute bags etc., a reservation of minimum of 90 percent for foodgrains and minimum of 20 percent for sugar was decided upon by the Government for the jute year 2013-14 (1st July, 2013 to 30th June, 2014).

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. In the event of non-availability of jute bags due to any reason, as an exemption the High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Polypropylene (PP) bags are used as alternative packaging material to meet the requirement of foodgrain procuring agencies. The relaxation for use of HDPE/PP bags during the last five years are as under:-

Rabi Rabi Rabi Kharif Rabi
2008-09 2009-10 2011-12 2012-13 2012-13

Quantity in 275 580 160 350 861
thousand
bales

The plastic (HDPE/PP Woven Sacks) bags have sufficient shelf life for avoiding degradation during the storage of food grains. These bags are made of HDPE/PP resin which is inert, hygienic and approved material as per Bureau of Indian Standards for food grade applications. The HDPE/PP material is fully recyclable and there are no environmental issues related with the disposal of these bags after rendering its useful life as these are recycled for the manufacture of other products.

(e): Reduction in reservation has not adversely impacted the production of jute goods.

(f): Does not arise.