

**Title:** Introduction of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) (Repeal) Bill, 2001(Bill withdrawn)

**15.41 hrs.**

SHRI C.N. SINGH (MACHHLISHAHAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before the Bill is introduced, I have to inform the hon. Members that Shri Basudeb Acharia has given a notice of his intention to oppose the Bill.

Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Bill was passed by this House in 1987 to protect the jute industry of our country. Lakhs and lakhs of jute workers as well as jute growers are involved in jute industry.

When we achieved Independence and Bengal was partitioned, jute industry remained with West Bengal whereas the jute growing land remained with East Pakistan. The first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru appealed to the people, particularly the farmers of West Bengal, to grow jute so that the jute mills of West Bengal could be saved. The farmers of West Bengal took the challenge and started growing jute and we became self-sufficient. The majority of the workers in the jute mills are either from your State, Mr. Chairman Sir, or from Orissa.

This Act was enacted to protect the jute industries to face the challenges of the plastic bags. The Act was enacted but there is a lobby which is pressurising the Government -- the hon. Minister is here and he knows about it -- to withdraw the mandatory order which is there since 1987. So, if this Bill is passed, the entire jute industry of not only West Bengal but also of Bihar as well as Orissa and Andhra Pradesh will be at stake....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Even the people in his State also will be affected. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, Sir. The livelihood of lakhs and lakhs of people will be at stake. This Bill is against the interest of the people of our country. Hence, this Bill should not be introduced. I appeal to the hon. Member to withdraw this Bill.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): I strongly support the views expressed by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. I oppose it tooth and nail. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We all support the views expressed by Shri Basu Deb Acharia and request the hon. Member to withdraw this Bill in the interest of the working class of this country. ...(Interruptions)

**श्री चन्द्रनाथ सिंह :** सभापति महोदय, मेरा उद्देश्य यह नहीं है कि जूट मिलें बंद हो जाएं और लोगों को नुकसान हो। इस समय मेरी जानकारी है कि पूरी दुनिया में ऐसा हो गया है कि 100 किलो ग्राम और उससे अधिक की जो पैकिंग होती है, वह लेबर न उठाए। यह आई.एल.ओ. ने भी स्वीकार किया है।

**श्री बसुदेव आचार्य :** अभी 50 किलो ग्राम के बैग जूट के बन रहे हैं, उसमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है।

**श्री चन्द्रनाथ सिंह :** उत्तर प्रदेश में अभी भी चीनी की 100 किलो ग्राम की बोरी जूट की आती है। उसे उठाने में मजदूरों को दिक्कत होती है। अगर 50 किलो ग्राम की आए तो हमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है, मैं अपना बिल वापस ले लेता हूँ। लेकिन 100 किलो ग्राम की बोरी पर मुझे आपत्ति है। उत्तर प्रदेश में 100 किलो ग्राम की चीनी की बोरी जूट की ही आती है। इसलिए 50 किलो ग्राम से अधिक भार की बोरी जूट की न हो।

**वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशीराम राणा) :** सभापति महोदय, मैं जो मिसअंडरस्टैंडिंग है, उसको दूर करना चाहता हूँ।

**सभापति महोदय :** लेकिन वे तो बिल वापस लेना चाहते हैं।

**श्री काशीराम राणा :** जो 50 किलो ग्राम वाले बैग की बात की कि वह चलता है, लेकिन वह शूगर में नहीं चलता। उसमें अभी भी 100 किलो ग्राम वाला बैग ही चलता है।

SHRI C.N. SINGH : I seek leave of the House to withdraw my motion for introduction of the Bill.

*The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.*

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