

**Title:** Need to review order issued under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 to ensure compulsory use of Jute bags in packing cement, foodgrains, sugar and urea.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India has recently issued an order bearing no. S.O.1076(E) dated 15.12.1998, diluting the statutory reservation orders issued under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 for the compulsory use of jute bags in packing cement, foodgrains, sugar and urea.

The Government of India's decision to dilute the statutory reservation orders would result in very large loss of market for jute products. The estimated loss in case of fertilizer (urea) alone will be of the order of 72,000 metric tonnes per year. The eventual loss in case of sugar industry, will be of the order of over 2,00,000 metric tonnes of jute bags a year. The cement industry which had virtually abandoned the use of jute bags for packing cement have been excluded altogether from the ambit of the aforesaid Act. All this will virtually cripple the jute industry.

As the very existence of the jute industry is at stake, I urge upon the Government to reconsider its decision so that the status quo ante is maintained and appropriate steps are initiated for strict enforcement of the order.