

Title: Reopening of closed Jute Mills in West Bengal.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Sir, you know that the jute industry is one of the important traditional industries in West Bengal. It has important contribution to the economy. About two lakh workers and 35 lakh farmers and a large number of business people are involved in that. But, it is suffering from many problems due to failure of the jute mill-owners to modernise the mills. They only earn super profits but do not invest for modernisation. This is a major problem. Government also gives funds but they do not utilise those funds for modernisation. Due to such criminal negligence, the industry has been facing several problems since last many years. Instead of taking necessary steps to improve the industry, the mill-owners take the course to the closure of their mills.

Every year a number of mills are closed by the owners during the summer season in the name of recession. During the last fortnight so many mills have been closed. Premchand Jute Mill in Chengail, Delta Jute Mill in Sankrail, Auckland Jute Mill and Reliance Jute Mill and some other jute mills were closed during the last fortnight leaving over 20,000 workers jobless. Many more might be closed down in the coming days. NJMC mills are already closed.

So, I would like to request the Textile Ministry to take note of that and prevail upon jute mill-owners to re-open all these closed jute mills so that the workers can get back their jobs.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): I associate myself on this matter.