

Title: Difficulties being faced by Jute growers in West Bengal.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN (COOCH BEHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Textile Minister that in my constituency Cooch Behar, West Bengal, Jute Corporation of India (JCI) started purchasing jute from the jute growers of Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri at commercial rates, that is, Rs. 1300 to Rs. 1400 per quintal from 22nd July, 2005. Farmers were getting the remunerative price. But, suddenly, the JCI has issued an order on 29th July, 2005 to stop purchasing jute at the commercial rate. I do not understand why the JCI has stopped purchasing jute from the jute growers after doing the same for seven days. What is the policy of the Government on this?

In the light of the above fact, I urge upon the hon. Minister to intervene in the matter for the sake of jute growers, as in West Bengal alone, there are 40 lakh jute growers, about three crore people are directly linked with this jute price.

So, through you, Sir, I urge the Government to instruct the JCI to vacate the earlier order of not purchasing the jute at commercial rate so that farmers can get a handsome rate and the middleman will not be benefited by this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You have concluded your speech in time.