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Title : Regarding need to take initiative for modernisation of age-old jute mills besides ensuring purchase of raw jute by JCI from jute growers at Minimum Support Price.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): Sir, the jute industry at present is going through great crisis. This has been aggravated more this year. Despite the guidelines issued by the Government, the mill owners are not purchasing raw jute from the JCI at the Minimum Support Price. As a consequence, jute growers are forced to sell their produce at a price far below the MSP.

This scenario is leading to total ruination of the jute growers and on the other hand non-purchase of raw jute by mill owners has placed the entire work force of the jute industry into a grim future.

Due to this indifferent attitude of the mill owners, our jute industry, which was once a pride of the country as a whole, is on the verge of total collapse.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to undertake immediate steps to save both the jute growers and the jute industry itself along with taking initiatives for modernising the age-old jute mills with modern technology in a time bound manner.