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Title: Request for relaxation w.r.t. the decision of 100% compulsory use of jute in packing foodgrains and sugar to protect the interest of Gujrat as well as other states plastic woven sack industry.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): Gujarat is the largest producer of polymers, which is used as raw material for plastic woven sack industry. The industry has developed woven sacks for packing of fertilizers, sugar, rice and other commodities. The gradual increase in compulsory use of jute bags is adversely affecting the plastic-woven sack industry. To protect the plastic polymer industry, the Government of Gujarat has requested a number of times to reduce the level of compulsory jute packing in food grains and sugar to a reasonable level of 50 per cent to 60 per cent.

In spite of the repeated requests, in the year 2005-06 ending on 30.6.2006 the Government of India has decided that hundred per cent of both food grains and sugar be packed in jute bags. It has been represented that due to the shortage prevailing in the domestic markets, the import of jute bags has been increased from the neighbouring States, that is Bangladesh and Nepal.

In spite of repeated requests from the State Government, various associations as well as the recommendation of 14th SAC, the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, *vide* its order dated 24.7.2006 continued hundred per cent use of jute packaging for supply or distribution of food grains and sugar in the year 2006-07.[\[R37\]](#)

Sir, I would request the Government of India to re-consider the decision and relax the 100 per cent compulsory provision for jute packaging as above to protect the interest of the plastic woven sack industry of Gujarat as well as of other States.