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

SHRI HITEN BARMAN (COOCH BEHAR): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I want to draw the attention of the Government through you to the problems being faced by the jute growers. The jute growers are now suffering with regard to sale of jute through JCI. Jute is the main cash crop in our State of West Bengal and also in other States. Particularly in West Bengal some 40 lakh jute growers are suffering.

In this year, the Central Government declared the minimum support price for jute which is not a reasonable price for the poor jute farmers. The jute growers sold their crop at low prices to the middlemen. The Government agency of JCI started purchasing the jute from their centres at the minimum support price. But the JCI did not purchase at the commercial rate.

In my constituency of Cooch Behar, that is North Bengal the farmers are forced to sell their jute from the last month to the middlemen. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government through you that instructions may be given to JCI for immediate purchase of jute directly from the farmers at commercial rates.