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Title : Problems being faced by the jute cultivators in the country.

SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH RAY (COOCH BEHAR): Respected Speaker Madam, I would like to raise an urgent matter of public importance in this august House. You must be aware that the Jute manufacture Development Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India and Ministry of Textiles were to provide subsidized jute seeds through CMD and JCI to the jute growers of West Bengal, Assam and Agartala, the Capital of Tripura. A decision was taken in this regard. But CMD and JCI Kolkata directly purchase the seeds from Andhra Pradesh's Prasad Seed corporation of Guntur district and at the state level they do not tie up with the district Magistrate or the state or panchayat administration. JCI authorities act according to their whims and fancies and sell these seeds to the big dealers who in turn resort to black marketing. As a result an artificial crisis is created among the genuine jute growers. They are compelled to pay even upto Rs. 200 or Rs. 250 for the seeds which are actually subsidized by the Government. To do away with this kind of artificial scarcity, the Government of West Bengal has decided to disburse 88,494 packets of jute seeds among the cultivators.

Madam, in my district Cooch Behar, JCI has transferred 91.5 metric tonne seeds to the big dealers. The cultivators on the other hand have been deprived of their due share. Thus I suspect that rampant corruption is going on in this part of the state. The JCI authorities are colluding with the dishonest dealers and making profits. Therefore, through you Madam, I demand a full – fledged inquiry into the matter so that the tainted and corrupt officers along with dishonest dealers can be severely punished.

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\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.