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Title: Need to declare Minimum Support Price for Jute at Rs. 2500 per quintal and increase the number of jute procurement centres in West Bengal .

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Nearly 40 lakhs farmers in the country grow jute of which 75 per cent is produced in West Bengal alone. Nearly 2.5 lakh other people are attached with the raw jute handling and some cottage industry, besides the jute industry.

But due to non-remunerative prices in the markets, particularly in view of the high increase in the cost of inputs, the jute growers are facing problems.

The prevailing market price for Grade V jute per quintal is much less than the cost of growing. They are also facing the problem of water due to irregular and scanty rainfall in jute growing areas. Therefore, to save the jute growers, one of the backbone of jute industry, the Minimum Support Price of raw jute should be declared at RS. 2500/- per quintal.

Besides, it special steps should be taken by the Central Government so that the JCI starts procurement of jute with right earnest from August to November directly from the jute-growers. The JCI procurement centres must also be raised from present 101 centres to facilitate the procurement in West Bengal.