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Title: Need to announce a special financial package for jute cultivators in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the gloomy state of affairs of the Jute industry. Coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh is one of the main sources of raw material for Indian Jute Industry. We are all aware that the Jute Corporation of India Ltd. (JCI) was set up in 1971 as an official agency by the Government of India with the aim to provide minimum support price (MSP) to the jute cultivators and also work as a helping hand in the raw jute sector. But, due to extreme weather conditions, the jute farming community is in distress. In spite of heavy demand for jute bags, the industry is not in a position to cater to the needs of domestic demand. In Andhra Pradesh alone, several jute mills are on the verge of shutting down due to non-availability of raw jute. As a result, thousands of jute mill workers are on road. It is because of non-supportive price from State Governments for jute farmers. The farmers are alternatively converting their jute cultivation land into real estate sector for lucrative offers. Therefore, the whole jute industry is losing its sheen.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to revive the jute industry and to announce a special package for jute cultivators and also to look into the problems of jute farming community in Coastal Districts of Andhra Pradesh.