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Title: Problems faced by Jute Industry in the country.

\*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT) : In the year 2011-12 due to the policies of the Central Government, in various states like West Bengal, Assam, parts of Bihar, the jute cultivators have been devastated. The previous policy of the Government entailed that foodgrains and sugar would be transported and supplied in jute bags only. But later it was decided that synthetic bags would be used instead of jute bags. As a result, price of jute has fallen drastically and the jute growers have incurred huge losses. Jute is a cash crop but it is not purchased by the Jute Corporation of India. Things have come to such a

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\* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali

pass that the jute factories have also been shut down and there has been retrenchment of labourers. They are facing great difficulties. The MSP is also not paid to the cultivators which in fact, should be announced by the Government beforehand. The policy of the Government must immediately be changed and use of synthetic bags should be banned. When on one hand, poor jute growers are losing everything, the Government is looking after the interests of the industrialists who manufacture synthetic bags. Now is the season of jute cultivation. If the Government does not clarify its policy on jute at this juncture then once again there will be huge losses in jute sector. Thus I would request the Government to enquire and find out what the actual price of jute should be. The Government must ensure that the farmers get adequate price for their cash crops and do not incur losses in future. Only then, the jute industry will be able to survive. With these words, I thank you for allowing me to raise this matter during Zero Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN :

Shri Nripendra Nath Roy associates himself with Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar on this issue.