

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Request the government to support the jute industry in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and rest of the country instead of plastic production.

**SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI (ELURU):** Thank you, Sir. Sri Krishna Jute Mills in my constituency is a hundred-year-old factory employing over five thousand people. It is a captive jute gunny bags manufacturer for the Food Corporation of India. It is closed down about a week ago on 27<sup>th</sup> January. Andhra Pradesh used to be next to West Bengal in jute production once upon a time. Today, it is almost zero. All this happened because of the price restriction policy of the Jute Corporation and the Food Ministry.

While they are price sensitive, it is unfortunate that indirectly they are helping a plastic product from Reliance Industries in place of jute being produced by millions of farmers engaged in the jute industry.

I would like the Government to note that our hon. Prime Minister made an announcement to ban single-use plastic very soon. We are encouraging HDPE, petroleum-based polymer, plastic products. So, I would like the Government to realise that we will have to bring back the jute industry because jute bags are going to be a major source of carrying bulk goods, be it rice, sugar, or other essential commodities. Kindly realise that jute is a product coming out of the efforts of millions of farmers. We are talking of doubling farmers' income, rejuvenating rural economy, and saving environment. Hence, I would like the

Government to take a serious note of it and come out in support of the jute industry in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and rest of the country.

श्री गणेश सिंह (सतना): सभापति जी, मैं विषय परिवर्तन की अनुमति चाहता हूँ  
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**HON. CHAIRPERSON :** Yes.