

**Seventeenth Loksabha**

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**Title: Regarding establishment of tea and jute processing units in Kishanganj district and Seemanchal.-laid**

**DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED (KISHANGANJ):** Jute and tea industry in the Seemanchal region is facing problem of insufficient processing units. Many farmers are forced to sell their jute crops to middlemen since the entire region has only one jute mill, and the cost of transportation to the mandis is untenable for small farmers and as mandis do not have capacity to buy this produce. The impact is apparent across Seemanchal and Bihar. The farmers do not receive MSPs designated for their crops since the middlemen exploit the lack of demand. The farmers have to switch from the cultivation of Jute crop due lack of market support. Similarly, the exploitation in the tea industry is adverse. All of this is the compound effect of the absence of a tea policy in place, increased production, producers' monopoly, and exploitation by middlemen. Further, lakhs of labourers are dependent on these cash crops and hence, the Government must act to protect the livelihood of these workers in the Seemanchal region. I, therefore, request the Government to focus on these two cash crops to establish processing units of tea and jute in Kishanganj district and Seemanchal in general.