

53

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND
SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

(2023-24)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

**DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF JUTE
INDUSTRY**

FIFTY-THIRD REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

February, 2024/ Magha, 1945 (Saka)

FIFTY-THIRD REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND
SKILL DEVELOPMENT

(2023-24)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF JUTE INDUSTRY

Presented to Lok Sabha on 07.02.2024

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 07.02.2024



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

February, 2024/ Magha, 1945 (Saka)

CONTENTS

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2022-23)	<u>PAGE No.</u> (v)
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2023-24)	(vi)
INTRODUCTION	(vii)

REPORT

PART-I		
I.	INTRODUCTORY	1
	DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF JUTE INDUSTRY / SECTOR	1
II.	THE JUTE AND JUTE TEXTILE INDUSTRY	3
III.	RAW JUTE SCENARIO	5
IV.	JUTE PACKAGING MATERIALS (COMPULSORY USE IN PACKING COMMODITIES) ACT, 1987	8
	(i) Inclusion of jute geo-textiles in the schedule of rates of various State Governments	13
V.	MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE (MSP) FOR RAW JUTE AND MESTA	14
VI.	PRODUCTION OF JUTE GOODS	18
VII.	DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF JUTE GOODS	22
VIII.	EXPORT PERFORMANCE	22
IX.	IMPORT OF RAW JUTE AND JUTE GOODS	26
X.	IMPORTS OF JUTE GOODS FROM NEPAL AND BANGLADESH & IMPOSITION OF ANTI-DUMPING DUTY	26
XI.	ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF JUTE ORGANIZATIONS UNDER MINISTRY OF TEXTILES.	28
XII.	SYSTEM OF MONITORING AND CONTROL OVER THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SCHEMES / PROGRAMMES OF NJB	41
XIII.	THIRD PARTY EVALUATION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEMES OF NJB	43
XIV.	ACTION TAKEN BY NJB ON THE SUGGESTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIRD PARTY EVALUATION	43
XV.	NATIONAL JUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (NJDP)	44
	A) JUTE-ICARE (Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) Scheme	44
	(i) Skilling of jute farmers	50
	B) Jute Diversification Scheme (JDS) (Background Note)	52
	(i) Capital Subsidy for Acquisition of Plant & Machinery (CSAPM) for Jute Diversified Products	52
	(ii) Jute Resource cum Production Centres (JRCPCs)	53
	(iii) Jute Raw Material Bank (JRMB)	57
	(iv) Jute Retail Outlets (JRO)	59
	(v) Jute Design Resource Centre (JDRC)	63
	(vi) Production Linked Incentive (PLI)	63
	C) Market Development & Promotion Scheme (MDPS)	65
	(i) Jute Mark Logo	66
	(ii) Fairs/Exhibitions	67

D) Scholarship Scheme for Girl Children of Workers of Jute Mills/MSME JDP unit	71
E) Challenges faced	75
XVI. ALLIED FIBRE/FLAX FIBRE	78
XVII. NATIONAL JUTE POLICY	83
XVIII. IMPACT OF COVID PANDEMIC	84
XIX. AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS	85
XX. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL	87
PART-II OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS	88-104
<u>APPENDICES</u>	
Appendix I- Minutes of the Twenty-Sixth Sitting of the Committee (2022-23) held on 6th September, 2023	105
Appendix II- Minutes of the Fourth Sitting of the Committee (2022-23) held on 16th November, 2023.	109
*Appendix III- Minutes of the Eighth Sitting of the Committee (2023-24) held on 05 February, 2024	

*Not appended with this cyclostyled copy.

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES
AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT (2022-23)**

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
3. Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
4. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
5. Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi
6. Shri Satish Kumar Gautam
7. Shri Bache Gowda B.N.
8. Dr. Umesh G. Jadhav
9. Shri Dharmendra Kumar Kashyap
10. Adv. Dean Kuriakose
11. Shri Pakauri Lal
12. Prof. Sanjay Sadashivrao Mandlik
13. Shri Dayakar Pasunoori
14. Shri Khalilur Rahaman
15. Dr. D. Ravikumar
16. Shri Naba (Hira) Kumar Sarania
17. Shri Bhola Singh
18. Shri Ganesh Singh
19. Shri Nayab Singh
20. Shri K. Subbarayan
21. Shri Giridhari Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Naresh Bansal
23. Shri Neeraj Dangi
24. Shri R. Dharmar
25. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha
26. Shri Elamaram Kareem
- 27.* Ms. Dola Sen
28. Shri M. Shanmugam
29. Shri Shibu Soren
30. Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar
31. Shri Binoy Viswam

* Re-nominated *w.e.f.* 23.08.2023.

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND
SKILL DEVELOPMENT (2023-24)**

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
3. Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
4. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
5. Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi
6. Shri Satish Kumar Gautam
7. Shri Bache Gowda B.N.
8. Dr. Umesh G. Jadhav
9. Shri Dharmendra Kumar Kashyap
10. Adv. Dean Kuriakose
11. Shri Pakauri Lal
12. Prof. Sanjay Sadashivrao Mandlik
13. Shri Dayakar Pasunoori
14. Shri Khalilur Rahaman
15. Dr. D. Ravikumar
16. Shri Naba (Hira) Kumar Sarania
17. Shri Bholu Singh
18. Shri Ganesh Singh
19. Shri Nayab Singh
20. Shri K. Subbarayan
21. Shri Giridhari Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Naresh Bansal
23. Shri Neeraj Dangi
24. Shri R. Dharmar
25. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha
26. Shri Elamaram Kareem
27. Ms. Dola Sen
28. Shri M. Shanmugam
29. Shri Shibu Soren
30. Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar
31. Shri Binoy Viswam

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Jadumani Baisakh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Sanjay Sethi - Director

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development (2023-24) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Fifty-Third Report on 'Development and Promotion of Jute Industry' relating to the Ministry of Textiles.

2. The Committee (2022-23) took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Textiles on 6th September, 2023. The Committee (2023-24) took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Textiles 16th November, 2023. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at the sitting held on 05 February, 2024.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Textiles for tendering evidence and placing before the Committee all the requisite information sought for in connection with the examination of the subject.

4. For ease of reference and convenience, the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

New Delhi;
05 February, 2024
16 Magha, 1945 (Saka)

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB
CHAIRPERSON,
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR,
TEXTILES AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

REPORT

PART-I

INTRODUCTORY

I. DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF JUTE INDUSTRY / SECTOR

The Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India approved the National Jute Development Programme (NJDP) - An Umbrella Scheme for development and promotion of Jute Industry / Sector. NJDP comprises the following Schemes/Sub-Schemes for implementation by National Jute Board (NJB) at total financial outlay of 485.58 crore during 2021 -2022 to 2025-2026:

- **JUTE AGRICULTURE**

(A) JUTE-ICARE (Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) – To introduce scientific packages for jute cultivation and retting exercises for improving fibre quality, productivity, reducing cost of jute production and increasing farmers’ income. Total land to be covered is 2,70,893 Hectares and number of jute farmers 5,78,000 under the programme. Total financial outlay of JUTE ICARE is Rs 69.31 crore.

- **MODERNIZATION**

(B) Capital Subsidy for Acquisition of Plant & Machinery (CSAPM) for Manufacturing Jute Diversified Products - To Facilitate modernization / Upgradation of the existing Jute mills and MSME JDP Units for manufacturing Jute Diversified Products. Incentive @ 30% of the cost of machinery facilitating investment of Rs 10,000 Lakh in acquisition of new machineries for production of JDPs by 100 Jute Mills/MSME-JDPUnits/investment of over Rs 100 crore at total financial outlay Rs 30.00 crore.

- **DIVERSIFICATION**

(C) Jute Resource cum Production Centres (JRCPCs) - To spread jute diversification programme through providing Basic, Advance and Design development trainings to new artisans, rural youths and WSHGs for sustained employment for production of JDPs. Total 150 JRCPC Centres are to be set up to provide employment to 10,800 artisans at total financial outlay Rs 36.00 crore.

(D) Jute Raw Material Bank (JRMB) - To Supply jute raw materials at Mill gate price to Jute Artisans, MSMEs JDP Producing units, and Beneficiaries of JRCPCs to manufacture Jute Diversified

Products. Total 140 JRMBs are to be opened to provide Jute Raw Materials at total financial outlay Rs 16.80 crore.

(E) Jute Retail Outlets (JRO) - To facilitate support services / incentives to existing and new Artisans / Entrepreneurs, for promotion & Sale of JDPs through Retail Outlets / Showroom. Total 140 Jute Retail Outlets of Jute Diversified Products would be opened at total financial outlay Rs 12.60 crore.

(F) Jute Design Resource Centre (JDRC) for Designing and development of Market worthy innovative Jute Diversified Products and helping existing and new JDP manufacturers and exporters. Total 1600 Designs of innovative lifestyle jute products would be developed at total financial outlay Rs 5.80 crore.

(G) Production Linked Incentive (PLI) - Jute Mills and MSME JDP units exporting JDPs are being supported/incentivised to become cost competitive in the international markets and to help them to fetch export orders for JDPs. Total 550 JDP manufacturing units would be provided incentive @ 3% of the export value or 5% of jute raw material cost, whichever is lower subject to maximum of Rs 12.00 Lakh per annum /unit. Total financial outlay is Rs 66.00 crore.

(H) Market Development & Promotion Scheme (MDPS) supports the JDP units for promotion and sale of JDPs in the domestic market and to registered jute exporters to boost export of jute goods. Export Market Promotion Assistance is being provided @ 50% / 75% / 90% to large – Mill / MSME-JDP / new exporters respectively, for participation in International events towards air fare, hotel and Space & decoration cost. Total financial outlay for Export Market Promotion Activities is Rs 51.77 crore and Domestic Market Promotion Activities Rs 31.65 crore, Jute Mark Logo promotion. Rs 22.00 crore, publicity and promotion Rs 12.40 crore.(Total Rs.117.82 crore)

- **WORKERS' WELFARE**

(I) Scholarship Scheme for Girl Children of Workers of Jute Mills/MSME JDP unit - Supports to the Jute Workers girl children and family for providing higher education to the girl children and Improvement in the education standard. Scholarship for Secondary Exam Pass outs @ Rs 5000 and Higher Secondary Rs 10,000 are being provided under the scheme. Total 22500 girl children would be provided scholarship at total financial outlay of Rs 15.00 crore.

2. The approved Schemes under National Jute Development Programme (NJDP) are being implemented by NJB on Pan India basis for Development and Promotion of jute sector.

3. Apart from above schemes of jute sector, under the mandate of JPM Act, 1987, the Government keep percentage of mandatory packaging of food grains and sugar in jute material. During the last 5 years, the Government has been keeping 100% food grains and 20% sugar mandatory packaging in jute. Since November, 2016, the Government has procured 209.46 Lakh Bales amounting to Rs 63.33 thousand crores B-Twill Jute Bags for packaging of food grains.

4. Also, the Government announces Minimum Support Price for raw jute and mesta every year to protect the interest of farmers. Jute Corporation of India (JCI) is the Price Support Agency of the Govt. of India for jute, to protect the interest of the Jute Growers through procurement of Raw Jute under the MSP fixed by the Govt. of India from time to time and also to stabilize the raw jute market for the benefit of the jute farmers and the jute economy as a whole. JCI is conducting MSP operation as and when required. Raw jute procurement is transacted in over 500 centers country-wide.

II. THE JUTE AND JUTE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

5. The Jute industry occupies an important place in the national economy of India. It is one of the major industries in the eastern region, particularly in West Bengal. Jute, the 'golden fibre', meets all the standards for 'safe' packaging in view of being a natural, renewable, biodegradable and eco-friendly product. It is estimated that that the jute industry provides direct employment to tentatively 0.37 million workers in organized mills and in diversified units including tertiary sector and allied activities, and supports the livelihood of around several lakh farm families. In addition, a large number of persons are engaged in the trade of jute.

6. As on November 2023, there are 108 composite jute mills out of which the state of West Bengal has 79 jute mills with Andhra Pradesh having 14 mills, Uttar Pradesh 3 mills, Bihar 4 mills, Odisha 3 mills, Assam 2 mills, Chhattisgarh 2 mills and Tripura 1 Jute Mill. Ownership-wise 6 mills are under the Government of India, 1 mill each is owned by the Government of Tripura and Orissa respectively, 1 mills in Assam is in the cooperative sector and the rest 99 are privately owned.

7. When asked to clarify the number of jute mills established/closed during the last three years, the number of workers lost jobs/employment during Covid pandemic/due to closure of mills and the specific welfare measures taken for the jute workers during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Ministry responded as under:

“It may be mentioned here that 5 new jute mills has been established in last 3 years while 5 jute mills declared closure in that period.

No such representation of workers job/employment loss has been reported to O/o Jute Commissioner.

Under the schemes of National Jute Board, there is no such specific scheme to provide welfare measures to jute workers during the Covid-19, pandemic. However, National Jute Board has distributed 3.27 Lakhs Jute Masks among jute farmers. Also, under the Scholarship Scheme, 3606 Girl Children of workers of jute mills/ MSME-JDP units were given scholarship amounting to Rs. 2.68 crores.”

8. With regard to opening up of new jute mills, the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in September, 2023 deposed as under:

“...we have been receiving proposals in this regard. In this new Financial Year, we have already approved two jute mills. I think, we have received applications for opening up of two more jute mills. They are going through the process of registration. So, that has been a welcome development. One of the bigger industrial houses, that is, Gloster Group, is bringing up two more jute mills in Telangana.”

9. When asked whether the Ministry have any plan/programme to establish new Mills or upgrade the existing Mills through grant of funds or conversion of twine mills to Composite Mills, the Ministry stated as under:

“Presently, the Ministry of Textiles has no proposal to set-up new jute mill or upgrade the existing mills. However, after the establishment of new composite jute mills, the Office of Jute Commissioner allocates Production Control cum Supply Orders under the extant provisions of Jute & Jute Textile Control Order 2016 in favour of these mills for the supply of the B. Twill jute sacking bags for mandatory packaging of food-grains under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 for use in the Public Distribution System.”

10. When further enquired whether any proposal is under consideration to revive the closed National Jute Mills by utilising the infrastructure and machinery already in place and the policy of the Government with regard to reviving the closed mills or setting up new mills by the Government, the Ministry responded as under:

“The Union Cabinet, in its meeting held on 10.10.2018 approved the closure of six jute mills (five in West Bengal and one in Bihar) of National Jute Manufacturers Corporation. Movable assets of these mills have already been disposed of and disposal of the immovable assets are going on. Presently, the Ministry of Textiles has no proposal to set-up new jute mill.”

11. When asked about the reasons for closure of jute mills and the nature of assistance provided to the workers, who lost their jobs, the Ministry stated as under:

“The mills in jute sector close due to problems in management, labour troubles and financial difficulties. Usually, the jobless workers of the closed jute mills are engaged in nearby working jute mills as jute mills are facing shortage of skilled workers.”

Jute Value Chain

12. The jute value chain *viz* the farm to fibre (jute growing), the fibre to yarn (spinning), the yarn to grey fabric (weaving), and the grey fabric to finished fabric (processing) is reflected below:



III. RAW JUTE SCENARIO

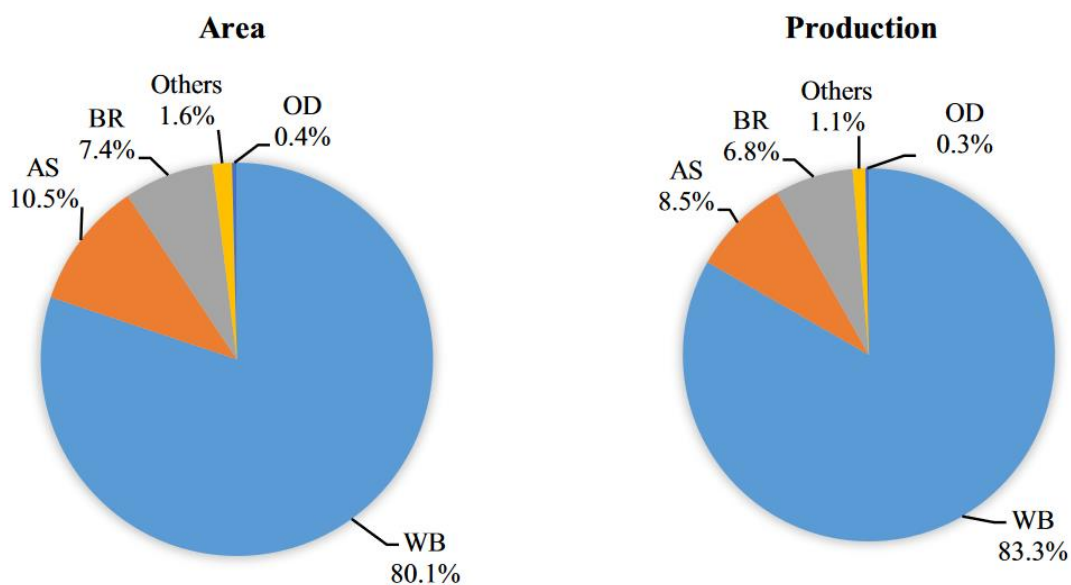
13. Raw jute crop is an important cash crop to the farmers. Cultivation of raw jute crop provides not only fibre which has industrial use, but jute stick which is used as fuel and building material by the farming community. There is always significant fluctuation in the area under jute cultivation in India. The year to year fluctuations arise out of three factors namely, (i) fluctuation in rainfall during the sowing season, (ii) the average raw jute prices realized during the previous jute season, and (iii) the returns realized from competing crops during the previous season. A significant area under jute competes with paddy during the same season. Hence, year to year fluctuations in the prices of jute relative to the prices of paddy would generally influence the relative allocation of land between the two crops.

14. Raw jute is produced mainly in the state of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura and Meghalaya. The following table will indicate the supply demand position of raw jute including mesta in 2022-23 to 2023-24 (Estimated):-

	(Qty: in lakh bales)	
	2022-23	2023-24 (Provisional)
(A)SUPPLY		
i) Opening stock	19.00	23.00
ii) Jute and Mesta crop	91.00	91.00
iii)Import	6.00	5.00
Total :	116.00	119.00
(B)DISTRIBUTION		
iv)Mill consumption	76.00	78.00
v)Domestic/industrial consumption	15.00	15.00
vi)Export	2.00	2.00
Total:	93.00	95.00
(C)CLOSING STOCK	23.00	24.00

Source: Expert Committee on Jute (ECJ)

15. With regard to the share of major States in area and production, the Ministry furnished the following information:



16. The representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in September, 2023 deposed as under:

“Jute crop cultivation is concentrated in three States, namely, West Bengal, Assam and Bihar accounting for 99 per cent of the production. In West Bengal, it has a share of 80 per cent in the jute area covered in the acreage; and in production, it is about 83.3 per cent.”

17. During the meeting held on 06.09.2023, the Committee were apprised that due to alternate yielding options like real estate, etc., the area under jute cultivation is shrinking. When asked to furnish State-wise details where the area is shrinking and the remedial measures taken to overcome this challenge, the Ministry responded as under:

“Under JUTE ICARE programme being implemented by NJB in collaboration with JCI , CRIJAF , NINFET and IJIRA , land area under jute cultivation and jute farmers have been increasing. By 2025-26, land to be covered under JUTE ICARE is 2,70,893 Hect. with 578,324 jute farmers including land and farmers covered during previous scheme. Under the programme, new States: Jharkhand, Nagaland, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh have been included under Jute ICARE to increase the area under jute cultivation.

State wise details, where the area is shrinking during 2021-22 as compared to 2013-14 are furnished below:

SL. No.	State	2013-14 (Total area – 8,38,000 Hectares)	2021-22 Total Area – 6,67,300 Hectares)	Decline /Increase during 2021-22 as compared to 2013- 14) Total area: (-) 1,70,700 Hectares
		Figure in 000 Hectares	Figure in 000 Hectares	Figure in 000 Hectares
1.	West Bengal	574	518.5	(-) 55.5
2.	Assam	74	64.5	(-) 9.5
3.	Bihar	121	63.7	(-) 57.3
4.	Odisha	15	7.2	(-) 7.8
5.	Meghalaya	11	11.2	(+) 0.2
6.	Tripura	2	0.7	(-) 1.3
7.	Nagaland	5	0.1	(-) 4.9
8.	Maharashtra	22	-	(-) 22
9.	Madhya Pradesh	4	-	(-) 4
10.	Chattishgarh	1	0.5	(-) 0.5
11.	Andhra Pradesh	9	1	(-) 8

“As may be seen above, there has been shrinkage in area under Jute Cultivation in all 10 Jute & Mesta growing states (Except Meghalaya State) during 2021-22, as compared to 2013-14. NJB has been

implementing Jute- ICARE programme with scientific agronomic practices in order to ensure improvement in quality /productivity and farmers' income. With implementation of Jute -ICARE, by increasing land area, it is expected that total area under Jute Cultivation will increase.”

18. When asked about the steps taken/ proposed to wash the raw jute in floating water (as is being followed in Bangladesh) *instead of* traditional system/practice of washing in blocked water so as to enhance the quality and get golden fibre as most of the jute producing States have rivers, the Ministry responded as under:

“At the onset, it is pertinent to mention that the parameters like colour, strength of the raw jute fibre are dependent on the proper retting process. It is well technically accepted that the best quality fibre can be obtained when the plants are submerged under free flowing clean water during post-harvesting. The main reason of production of higher quality of jute in Bangladesh is availability of large scale water bodies throughout the jute producing areas.

On the other hand, major jute growing districts of West Bengal like, Murshidabad, Malda, Nadia, Hooghly, 24 Parganas (N), Dinajpur/s and other jute growing States are facing acute shortage of water due to gradual decrease in water bodies for retting purpose since the last couple of decades. During drought conditions, this problem becomes more enormous. The fibre quality gradually deteriorates due to less number of clean free flowing local water bodies. The rivers or canals being another option for retting are far from the farmers' agriculture field which makes the process costlier resulting in a low benefit- cost ratio.”

IV. JUTE PACKAGING MATERIALS (COMPULSORY USE IN PACKING COMMODITIES) ACT, 1987

19. Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act) has been enacted to provide for the compulsory use of jute packaging material in the supply and distribution of certain commodities in the interests of production of raw jute and jute packaging material, and of persons engaged in the production thereof, and for matters connected therewith.

20. The Government attempts to provide as much reservation as possible to utilize the jute crop that is produced in the country, without creating the bottle-neck in the supply-distribution chain of the commodities. The present Order notified on 31.03.2023 stipulates the following percentage of commodities to be packed in jute packaging material for jute year 2022-23(July to June):-

Commodity	Minimum percentage to be reserved for packaging in Jute
Foodgrains	100% of the procurement*
Sugar	20% of the procurement**

* Initially 10% of the indents for foodgrains would be placed through reverse auction on the GeM portal.

** In diversified jute bags under direct purchase by the procuring agencies from the mills or open market.

The above Notification was valid upto 31st December, 2023. New Notification for the year 2023-24 has been issued on 26.12.2023, keeping reservation 100% for food grains and 20% for sugar. The new Notification is valid upto 30.06.2024.

The level of reservation recommended by the Standing Advisory Committee (under the Chairpersonship of Secretary Textiles) the Government (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved) in the past few years as follows:-

Mandatory Jute Packaging Orders issued under JPM Act, 1987			
Order date	Year	Sugar	Foodgrains
09.03.2018	2017-18	20%	90%
30.11.2018	2018-19	20%	100%
20.12.2019	2019-20	20%	100%
26.11.2020	2020-21	20%	100%
27.12.2021	2021-22	20%	100%
31.03.2023*	2022-23	20%	100%

* The order was extended upto 31st December, 2023. New Notification issued on 26.12.2023, keeping reservation percentage for the year 2023-24. It is valid upto 30.06.2024.

21. In response to a specific query whether the Notification issued regarding placing 10% of the indents of jute bags for packaging food grains through a reverse auction on the GeM portal is in agreement with JPM Act 1987, the Ministry stated as under:

“Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, constitutes the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC). After considering recommendations of the SAC, Central Government takes decisions in the matter of percentage reservation of commodities and other related matter. The matter of 10% indents to be placed through reverse auction on the GeM portal has been decided with the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on the basis of recommendations of SAC. Therefore, the notification regarding 10% of indents of jute bags for packaging food grains through a reverse auction on GeM portal appears to be in agreement with JPM Act, 1987.”

22. The representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in September, 2023 deposed as under:

“Another important point worth mentioning is that the entire implementation of the Jute Packaging Materials Act is done by an end-to-end solution of Jute Smart Portal where the indents are given through this portal and the production cum supply orders also the inspection orders and the actual payment to the SPAs and the mills are provided through this portal. Recently, given that there is a need for a more accurate data on the area, productivity and production, Jute Commissioner Office and JCI has together tied up with the National Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO and they have developed a Jute Crop Information System, which had begun on a pilot basis. The pilot phase is over and the MoU for the final phase has been signed last month between NRSC and JCI because of which by remote sensing and satellite imageries the data on the actual acreage and the production will be captured.”

23. On being asked as to how is it ensured that adequate jute bags are supplied to all the packaging units after the implementation of JPM Act, 1987, the Ministry stated as under:

“Before every season, DF&PD plan the requirements of jute bags for all the states. As per the planned quantity jute mills are issued orders for supply the same. If it is found that jute mills are not in a position to supply the required quantity, dilution is granted for use of HDPE bags as per provisions of the Order issued under JPM Act, 1987.”

24. When specifically asked as to how do the Ministry coordinate with the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DF&PD), State Governments and District Administration, instances of violation of the provisions, reporting mechanism and whether physical inspections are also carried out, the Ministry responded as under:

“For ensuring availability of jute bags to the indenting agencies, generally six months prior to every crop season (Rabi & Kharif), different State Government agencies including FCI plan their requirements of jute bags. After receipt of requirement of jute bags from all the states & FCI, a consolidated month wise plan for requirement of jute bags are being devised by Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India. Moreover, while preparing the month wise schedule, the manufacturing capacity of the jute industry is also taken into consideration by the DF&PD. Based on such plan and after receipt of indents and requisite funds from the State indenting agencies, Production Control cum Supply Orders are issued to jute mills covering

the indented quantity for manufacture and supply of jute bags. For looking after the whole exercise, DF&PD holds periodic co-ordination meetings with all stakeholders. Through this mechanism, the entire requirements of the State Governments are fulfilled and this way the provisions are complied with in the foodgrains sector.

However, in case of any shortage or disruption in supply of jute packaging material or in case of any other contingency or exigency, the Ministry of Textiles may, in consultation with the user Ministries concerned, allow dilution of packaging material up to a maximum of thirty per cent of the percentage specified. Government is always keen to tap the maximum sacking capacity of the jute industry in order to procure jute bags for packing foodgrains.

As regards Sugar sector, it may be mentioned that there are more than 500 sugar mills located in different parts of the country. It may be mentioned that Government of India, Ministry of Textiles vide Order No. S.O. 1495(E) dated 30-05-2011 has delegated powers under Sections 6, 7 & 8 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 to the following officers:

S.N	Designation of the Officers	Commodity and jurisdiction	Powers delegated
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Jute Commissioner	Foodgrains and Sugar, All over India	* Sections 6,7 and 8
2	Joint Secretary(Policy), MCA,FPD	-Do-	*Sections 6,7 and 8
3	Deputy Jute Commissioner	-Do-	*Sections 6,7 and 8
4	Deputy Directors, O/o the Jute Commissioner	-Do-	*Sections 6,7 and 8
5	Chief Director(Sugar), Deptt of Food, GOI	Sugar, All over India	*Sections 6,7 and 8
6	District Magistrates of all the Districts in India.	Sugar, concerned District	*Sections 6,7 and 8
7	Sub-Divisional Magistrates of all Sub-Divisions of all Districts in India.	Sugar, concerned Sub- Division	*Sections 6,7 and 8

*Section 6- Power to call for information and samples.

*Section 7- Power to enter and inspect.

*Section 8- Power to search and seize.

O/o Jute Commissioner has requested multiple times to Chief Director(Sugar), District magistrates and Sub-Divisional Magistrate to initiate appropriate action against sugar mills who are found to have violated the stipulations of the Order issued under JPM Act, 1987. O/o Jute Commissioner has not received any report from any above

mentioned offices indicating violation of the stipulation of the Order issued under JPM Act or otherwise.”

25. In this context, the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in November, 2023 deposed as under:

“We are committed to strengthening and supporting the jute industry and which is why the jute mandatory packaging, 100 per cent for food grains and 20 per cent for sugar, is presently being implemented and this is being done in close coordination with the Department of Food and Public Distribution. Typically, the orders under this are produced and given by the FCI and State procurement agencies and that is being closely coordinated. There is also a senior level committee which meets frequently to take stock of the situation. The point that hon. Member and you yourself have raised about better coordination with the State Government and District authorities is very well taken. We will work to strengthen that.”

26. The Committee were apprised that the total turnover of the jute is about Rs. 18,000 crore, with Rs. 12,000 crore being the turnover for the jute sacking which is procured by the Government of India, Department of Food and Public Distribution. When asked to clarify whether any efforts are being made to increase the market share, the Ministry responded as under:

“Sacking is the mainstay of jute industry which is used as packaging materials constituting more than 80% of total jute goods production. National Jute Board (NJB), Ministry of Textiles has been making all possible efforts to increase jute diversification and thereby reducing dependency on sacking. Of late, industry has also realized the importance of jute diversification and come out with transformation of their product profile to cater the customers demand for Eco-friendly jute products in view of menace created by the plastic/synthetics.

Recently, industry has geared up to produce not only traditional sacking bags but also lighter packaging materials in conformity with BIS specification and several innovative jute products viz Jute Technical Textiles including – Geotech (Jute Geo Textile), Packtech (Food Grade Quality Jute Cloth/Bags) for packing cocoa / coffee beans, shelled nuts as per IJO 98/01 standards.

On the other hand, the lighter jute fabrics are used as raw materials for manufacturing value added products viz Home Textiles made-up, Shopping & fancy bags and various novelty & gift items. The finer count jute yarns are being used for Union / Blended decorative fabrics and jute floor coverings including carpets etc. These Jute Diversified Products are having strong export potential as reveals from the current export trend of jute goods....”

(i) Inclusion of jute geo-textiles in the schedule of rates of various State Governments

27. On being enquired about the outcome of the coordination of the Ministry with the State Governments with regard to including the jute geo-textiles in the schedule of rates of various State Governments for more institutional buying of the jute geo-textile products, the number of States responded, whether any State has expressed reservation in this regard and efforts made by the Ministry to resolve the concerns of the States, the Ministry responded as under:

“Jute Geo textiles (JGT), an eco- compatible product enables to address critical geo technical problems such as soil erosion, consolidation of soft soil, construction of rural roads, stabilizing the slopes and for various agro textiles applications. National Jute Board has been engaged in promotion of these innovative products. Continuous interactive awareness programmes have been organized with the engineers and other stakeholders in various states including North East for increasing usage of Jute geotextiles. Use of jute geotextiles in rural road construction through State Govts is one of the prime agenda of NJB for JGT promotion. Ministry of Textiles approached all state Governments for inclusion of jute geotextiles in schedule of rates. So far, 9 states have conveyed that they are including jute geotextiles in schedule of rates. No state has expressed reservations in this regard.”

28. The Ministry informed that 9 States had conveyed that they are including jute geo-textiles in schedule of rates and no state has expressed reservations in this regard. When asked about the steps taken to persuade the remaining States to include jute geo-textiles in schedule of rates for more institutional buying of the jute geo-textile products, the Ministry stated as under:

“Ministry has already written to the Chief Secretaries of the remaining states for inclusion of Jute Geo Textiles in the schedule of rates. Further, the user agencies under State and Central Governments are also approached for execution of MoUs for institutional buying of jute geo textile products. National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) has expressed their willingness to execute MOU with NJB for institutional buying of jute geo textiles products.”

29. The representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in September, 2023/ November, 2023 deposed as under:

“Also, we have now coordinated with the State Governments for including the jute geo-textiles in the schedule of rates of various State

Governments so that if it comes in a schedule of rates, there will be more and more institutional buying of the jute geo-textile products.”

xxxx

“Also, Sir, another point which is not mentioned here I think is institutional buying. More and more jute products should be brought institutionally, especially by the Government procurement agencies as office stationery for conferences. This can be one great way of promoting jute products.”

V. MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE (MSP) FOR RAW JUTE AND MESTA

30. Minimum Support Price for raw jute and mesta is fixed every year to protect the interest of farmers. While fixing prices of different grades, the issue of discouraging production of lower grade jute and encouraging production of higher grades jute are taken into consideration so as to motivate farmers to produce higher grade jute.

31. Jute Corporation of India (JCI) is the Price Support Agency of the Govt. of India for jute, to protect the interest of the Jute Growers through procurement of Raw Jute under the MSP fixed by the Govt. of India from time to time and also to stabilize the raw jute market for the benefit of the jute farmers and the jute economy as a whole. JCI is conducting MSP operation as and when required. Raw jute is transacted in over 500 centers country-wide. Raw jute purchased by JCI in association with the State Co-operatives during the last several years is given below:-

Year (July-June)	Production	Raw jute procured by JCI/Coop.(Qty: In '000' Bale)			Proc. as %age of production	Total procurement value in Lakh Rs.
		Support	Commer.	Total		
2017-18	7600	338.9	0	338.9	4.5	19,799
2018-19	7200	72.66	0	72.66	1.01	4541
2019-20	6800	82.29	17.02	99.31	1.46	7000
2020-21	5800	3.98	85.73	89.71	1.55	8,766
2021-22	9000	1.39	7.00	8.39	0.1	735
2022-23	9100	236	76	312	3.43	26,533
2023-24	(till 9100	297	0	297	3.26	25217

07/11/2023)						
-------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

32. The minimum support price is fixed by the Govt. on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). As per CACP reports, while formulating the agricultural price policy CACP takes into account various factors such as cost of production, overall demand/supply situation, domestic and international prices and effect of minimum support price on general price level. CACP every year also conducts meetings of all stake holders to decide minimum support price. The MSP announced by Govt. of India during the last several years are given below:-

Year	MSP of TDN3 grade of raw jute (Rs./Quintal)	%age increase over previous year
2016-17	3200*	18.52
2017-18	3500*	9.38
2018-19	3700*	5.71
2019-20	3950*	6.75
2020-21	4225*	7.0
2021-22	4500*	6.5
2022-23	4750*	5.6
2023-24	5050*	6.3

*TDN3 basis instead of TD5 basis as per recommendation of CACP, Govt. of India from the crop year 2015-16 and no. of grades has been reduced from 8 grades (TD1-TD8) to 5 grades (TDN1 – TDN5). The MSP rate of TDN1, TDN2, TDN4 and TDN5 is fixed by Jute Commissioner. From the Crop Year 2023-24, CACP changed nomenclature of 5 grade system from TDN to TD i.e. as per CACP recommendation, GoI declared MSP rate of TD3 (Middle Grade) grade and Jute Commissioner fixed MSP rates of other grades like TD1, TD2, TD4, TD5.

33. When asked about the basis on which these grades have been categorized and the data regarding MSP of TDN1, TDN2, TDN4 and TDN5, the Ministry stated as under:

“The 5 grades have been decided on the basis of Strength, Fineness, Lusture, Root content and the presence of major & minor defects. The MSP grade-wise pricing data is furnished here under.

Last 8 Years MSP Rate of Raw Jute						
Year	Variety	TDN-1	TDN-2	TDN-3	TDN-4	TDN-5
		WN-1	WN-2	WN-3	WN-4	WN-5
2023-2024	Tossa	5750	5550	5050	4500	4275
	White	5750	5550	5050	4500	4275
2022-2023	Tossa	5425	5225	4750	4225	4025
	White	5425	5225	4750	4225	4025
2021-2022	Tossa	5150	4950	4500	3950	3950
	White	5150	4950	4500	3950	3750
2020-2021	Tossa	4850	4650	4225	3675	3475
	White	4850	4650	4225	3675	3475
2019-2020	Tossa	4500	4350	3950	3450	3250
	White	4500	4350	3950	3450	3250
2018-2019	Tossa	4250	4100	3700	3200	2950
	White	4250	4100	3700	3150	2900
2017-2018	Tossa	4050	3900	3500	3100	2900
	White	4000	3850	3450	3050	2850
2016-2017	Tossa	3750	3500	3200	3000	2800
	White	3700	3450	3150	2950	2750

Last 8 Years MSP rate of Mesta / Bimli							
Year	Variety	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
		O.TOP	S.MID	MID	BOT	B.BOT	X.BOT
2023-2024	Mesta / Bimli	3850	3700	3575	3475	3375	3275
2022-2023	Mesta / Bimli	3500	3400	3275	3175	3075	2975
2021-2022	Mesta / Bimli	3350	3250	3125	3025	2925	2825
2020-2021	Mesta / Bimli	3300	3200	3075	2975	2875	2775
2019-2020	Mesta / Bimli	3275	3175	3050	2950	2850	2750
2018-2019	Mesta / Bimli	3250	3150	3025	2925	2825	2725
2017-2018	Mesta / Bimli	3200	3100	3000	2900	2800	2700
2016-2017	Mesta / Bimli	3200	3100	3000	2900	2800	2700

34. The Committee noted that the annual increase in MSP of Raw Jute during the last five years was in the range of Rs. 250 to Rs. 325 and in the case of Mesta/Bimli, the annual increase range was Rs. 25 to Rs. 150 except in 2023-24 when the increase was Rs. 350/300. The Ministry were asked to indicate the criteria for determination of MSP and whether such minimal increase achieves the objective of protecting the interest of farmers. In response, the Ministry stated as under:

“Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) recommends the Minimum Support Price of raw jute after considering various factors such as cost of production of jute, overall demand and supply of raw

jute, trends in domestic and international prices, inter-crop parity, terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sector, the likely impact of recommended MSP on the major user industries and their competitiveness and a minimum of 50 percent margin over cost of production. The increase in MSP of raw jute of Tossa/White and Mesta/Bimli is recommended by CACP after considering various factors as stated above.

After receipt of the recommendation of the CACP; Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, announces the Minimum Support Price. Hence, CACP considers various factors which include the cost of production and a reasonable return thereon for declaring MSP of jute which protect the interest of farmers.”

35. When asked about MSP procurement, the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in September, 2023 deposed as under:

“Since last year there has been significant procurement going on because of less than normal rainfall we find that the quality of jute has declined and in certain parts of the States some districts are facing a lesser than market price rates. Therefore, MSP procurement is going on and last year we had about 81,000 farmers who have benefited from MSP procurement.”

36. When asked about the current status of MSP for raw Jute, the Ministry responded as under:

“This year due to various reasons like bumper Production of Raw Jute, large Carryover Stock from last year (i.e. 23 Lakh Bales as per ECJ estimates), the production of jute crop during current year and previous year has happened good, resulting in bumper availability of raw jute in market. Consequently, there is an ongoing MSP situation which JCI is delivering to the best of its capability. During financial year 2022-23, the Corporation has already procured 4.20 lakh quintals raw jute amounting to Rs. 200 Crs and in the current year 3.70 lakh quintals raw jute amounting to Rs. 177 Crs. The daily procurement levels of raw jute under MSP are between five to six thousand quintals. The Corporation has hired 40 godowns for additional procurement.”

37. When asked about the daily market demand of raw jute and the daily sale by the Corporation, the Ministry responded as under:

“The daily procurement level of the Jute Corporation of India under MSP are between 5000- 6000 quintals and the same is done from the growers/ farmers directly. The jute procured by the Corporation under MSP is dispatched to the mills based on Production Control Orders (PCOs) issued through the O/o Jute Commissioner for purchase of

sacking for foodgrains. The PCO links supply of MSP jute worth 16% of the weight of the sacking bags to be supplied by JCI to the Mills.

A linkage order is issued for bulk quantities, based on the indents for jute sacks raised by the State Procurement Agencies as per their requirements, month-wise. The linkage order for supply of MSP jute is issued to the mills by the Office of the Jute Commissioner in the proportion of their capacities. In the jute market there are several private traders who procure the bulk of the available jute, while a portion of the quantities in the lower grades come to JCI for MSP.

The average daily sale by JCI in the ensuing month is about 2,500 quintals. Average daily demand of raw jute by industry is estimated to be 50,000 quintals per day.”

38. On being asked about the number of Godowns owned/hired by the Corporation, their storage capacity and measures taken to ensure security and safety of raw jute kept in the Godowns, the Ministry stated as under:

“The Corporation has 47 GOI built go-downs under its possession and 63 go-downs hired from private owners on a long-term lease basis. The Corporation hires additional go-downs on ‘as-required’ basis.

This year, to keep pace with the large supply of raw jute in the market and rising MSP procurement quantities, 63 additional go-downs (in addition to existing 47 GoI owned and 63 long-term hired go-down) have also been hired on a short-term basis as per requirement.

The present capacity of the total 173 go-down (i.e. 47 GoI owned and 63 hired for long term and 63 additional go-downs hired for short-term this year) of Corporation is 7, 76,237 quintals.

To ensure safety and security, all the go-downs that are owned/ hired are kept under the cover of insurance. Inspections are also carried out by officials of Regional office as well as Head Office from time to time. For surveillance all the go-downs are manned on a continuous basis.”

VI. PRODUCTION OF JUTE GOODS

39. India is the leading jute goods producing country in the world, accounting for about 70% of estimated world production. Bulk of the manufactured jute goods is predominantly being used in packaging purposes in domestic market. The trend in production of jute goods from last few years and current year is given below:-

Qty:"000" M.T. Tonnes

Period(April-March)	Hessian	Sacking	Carpet Cloth	Backing	Others	TOTAL
2016-17	178.6	871.6	0.0		92.1	1142.3
2017-18	173.3	902.3	0.0		102.2	1178.2
2018-19	147.6	912.3	2.0		99.5	1161.4
2019-20	127.5	923.5	0.9		113.2	1165.1
2020-21	118.4	739.2	1.1		104.1	962.8
2021-22	119.4	865.1	1.7		93.8	1080.0
2022-23	117.6	1041.0	0.7		87.2	1246.5
2023-24 (Apr-July 2023)	31.5	371.8	0.0		25.8	430.1

Source Indian Jute Mills Association, Jute & Gunny Statistics (July 2023)

40. When asked about the reasons for constant decrease in production of jute goods in 'Others Category' since 2019-20, the Ministry stated as under:

"Production of jute goods in "Others Category" covers yarn, canvas & tarpaulin, decorative fabrics, webbing, matting, felt, soil saver, scrim cloth, special hessian etc. Yarn is the major category of jute production. Production of yarn and other items of jute since 2019-20 were as under:

Year	Production		Total
	Yarn	Other Items	
2019-20	66.0	47.2	113.2
2020-21	61.3	42.8	104.1
2021-22	59.4	34.4	93.8
2022-23	45.6	41.6	87.2
2023-24 (April-June 2023)	10.3	9.3	19.6

As may be seen in the above table :

- (i) Production of jute yarn has declined from 66 thousand M.Ton in 2019-20 to 45.6 thousand M.Ton in 2022-23 (declined by 31%).
- (ii) Jute yarns are being used as raw material for manufacturing jute fabrics, and mats/mattings & rugs/durries (Floor Coverings).The floor coverings are manufactured largely by MSME-JDP Units using more quantities of Hand spun yarn less of jute yarn.
- (iii) In international market, India has been facing stiff price competition and exports of jute yarn has been declining.
- (iv) The Other jute items (decorative fabrics, special hessian, webbing etc) being produced by jute mills are the innovative products and yet to mature in terms of market potential.

41. When asked about the steps taken to overcome stiff price competition in international market and decline of exports of jute yarn, the Ministry responded as under:

“National Jute Board has been implementing series of diversification and market promotion activities to boost overall exports of jute goods. The jute diversification includes increasing production of jute fabrics using jute yarn as basic raw material for production of jute fabrics (Handloom & Power loom), value added textile made ups(including cushion covers), floor coverings (Rugs & Durries), which are having promising export market . Further, NJB as part of its export promotion measures, facilitating participation of jute yarn producing Mill Units in World Carpet and Floor Covering International Fairsto promote Jute Yarns and floor coverings exports.”

42. When asked about the steps taken to encourage jute mill owners to increase production of innovative products viz decorative fabrics, special hessian, webbing etc. and the measures being taken to increase awareness of such products, the Ministry stated as under:

“The innovative jute products viz. decorative fabrics, special hessian, webbing etc. produced by Jute Mills are the prime products broadly covered under jute diversified products. These products are given priority for promotion in major textile fairs in India. Also,in international market,NJB facilitate participation of the MSME & Mill Units producing such jute diversified products. The participating units are provided Export Market Promotion Assistance to the extent of 50%/75%/90%, as applicable of the total expenditure Rs. 7.50 lakh/unit.”

43. The Ministry, subsequently, furnished the following data with regard to production of jute goods since 2019-20 and share of jute goods:

Production of Jute Goods
(‘000 MT)

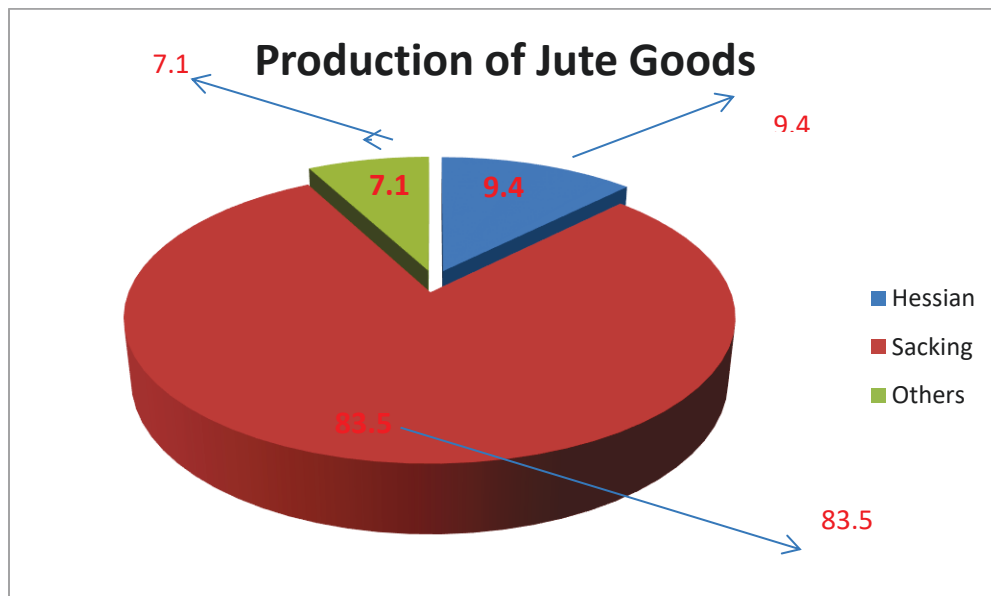
Year (July – June)	Hessian	Sacking	Cpt. Backing	Yarn	Others	Total Production
2019-20	106.9	790.3	0.7	58.5	39.3	995.7
2020-21	135.9	833.5	1.5	70.3	46.5	1087.7
2021-22	120.6	916.6	1.7	56.5	35.4	1130.8

2022-23	111.9	1090.3	0.5	44.0	41.8	1288.5
2023-24 (Jul-Aug)	16.4	197.9	0	7.1	6.4	227.8

Source: Monthly Summary of Jute & Gunny Stat. (Aug '23) - IJMA

- Sale Yarn is used as intermediate product manufacturing Sacking & Hessian.
- Demand in exports markets – slowdown.
- Price competition from Bangladesh.

Share of Jute Goods



44. In this context, the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in November, 2023 deposed as under:

“Regarding production of jute goods, there was an observation that the production of yarn has shown a declining trend. But we would like to submit that yarn is an intermediary product. If we see the production of sacking, we see that there is an increase in the production of the value-added product of sacking. So, a decrease or decline in the production of yarn has been compensated by increase in sacking, which is a finished value-added product. In the total production also, we can see an increasing trend. Of course, the export markets have been sluggish and comparatively, the export has gone down, which was also an observation made last time. But the production of value-added products has increased. In the entire jute goods production of 12.88 lakh metric

tonnes, we see that 83 per cent is actually sacking and it is being procured mandatorily under JPM Act.”

VII. DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF JUTE GOODS

45. India is the major producer of jute products in the world primarily due to its vast domestic market. Average domestic consumption out of total production has been around 90%. Trend in domestic consumption of jute goods for last few years and current year is given in the following Table:-

Qty:"000" M.T. Tonnes					
April-March	Hessian	Sacking	C.B.C.	Others	Total
2016-17	140.9	855.9	0.0	78.9	1075.7
2017-18	141.9	894.2	0.0	76.5	1112.6
2018-19	130.2	900.8	1.2	81.6	1113.6
2019-20	113.8	907.9	0.3	94.7	1116.7
2020-21	96.0	736.4	1.0	82.9	916.3
2021-22	93.1	834.5	0.4	72.3	1000.3
2022-23	89.10	1013.00	0.1	68.20	1170.60
2023-24 (Apr-July 2023)	26.1	348.5	0.0	19.9	394.5

Source Indian Jute Mills Association, Jute & Gunny Statistics (July 2023)

VIII. EXPORT PERFORMANCE

46. The Exports trends during the year 2016-17 to 2023-24 (Prov.), as furnished by the Ministry, are as under:

(Qty: 000' M.T. / Value: Rs in Crore)					
Year	Hessian (Qty.)	Sacking (Qty.)	Others (Qty.)	Total (Qty.)	Total Value
2016-17	78.56	46.63	15.49	140.68	2074.21
2017-18	86.80	44.77	21.22	152.79	2158.56
2018-19	64.11	37.09	20.48	121.68	2273.27
2019-20	56.30	38.90	18.50	113.70	2423.84
2020-21	56.40	31.00	11.60	102.80	2740.46
2021-22	90.6	51.50	19.50	161.60	3785.86
2022-23	80.76	52.63	43.87	177.26	3510.60
2023-2024 (April- August) -Provisional	33.04	17.65	19.74	70.43	2626.44

Source: DGCI&S, Ministry of Commerce.

47. With regard to the reasons for decrease in exports from Rs. 3785.86 crore in 2021-22 to Rs. 3510.60 crore in 2022-23, the Ministry stated as under:

“During 2021-22 exports of jute goods was 1, 61,600 MTon valued at Rs 3785.86 crore. During 2022-23 export has increased in quantitative term by 10% (1, 77,300 MT). but declined in value terms by 7% .The fall in exports in value term during 2022-23, is attributable to global recession as compared to 2021-22.”

48. In this context, the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in September, 2023 deposed as under:

“Sir, actually the order books were much higher in this financial, which has ended, but because of the economic downturn orders have been held back. We had shown about Rs. 3,500 crore of exports in total. The order book was actually more than Rs. 4,000 crore. This is the feedback that I got from the jute industry. But because of this downturn they have asked to hold back on the supply of the orders. Otherwise, last year itself we would have probably crossed Rs. 4,000 crore.”

49. The representative further supplemented as under:

“Sir, as a general point just to supplement. The feedback that we get from the industry not just for jute but all the other textile products is that because we had a fairly sharp spike in the year 2021-2022. So, these markets which are our major export destinations have sort of inventory or stocks. So, till the time those stocks deplete, they are not going ahead with fresh orders. But we are hopeful that in the Third Quarter we will see an upward trend in jute as well as other textile products also.”

50. The representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in November, 2023 deposed as under:

“In terms of export trend, the hon. Committee has also last time observed that there is a decline in the export since last year. But the reason is the overall decline in export demand, which is reflected in the jute sector also.”

51. When asked to furnish the data pertaining to the quantity of Jute produced and exported during the last three financial years, the Ministry furnished the following details:

“Production of Jute Goods vis-à-vis Export Performance during last 3 financial years:

Year	Production	Exports	(Qty : 000 M.Ton) % of Exports to Production
2019-20	1165.1	113.70	10
2020-21	962.8	102.80	11
2021-22	1080.0	161.60	15
2022-23	1246.5	177.27	14

The Ministry also stated that the State-wise data on production and exports of jute goods is not published by DGCI&S.”

52. The Committee noted that the percentage of exports to production in 2019-20 was 10%, whereas in 2022-23, it was 14% viz there was only 4% increase in three years. The Committee also noted that the percentage of production decreased from 15% in 2021-22 to 14% in 2022-23 despite increase in production and exports during this period. When asked about the nodal agency responsible for maintaining state wise data on production of exports and the reasons for decline in percentage of exports to production, the Ministry stated as under:

“During 2022-23, production of jute goods was 12,46,500 MT. and exports from India was 1,77,270 MT. constituting 14% of total jute goods production. As compared to 2019-20, exports in quantity i.e. 1,13,700 in terms of has shown increasing trend by 56%, during 2022-23. In this direction, NJB has been implementing the National Jute Development Program – An Umbrella scheme for overall development and promotion of Indian Jute starting from agriculture to product diversification to market development & promotion.

State wise data on Production of Raw Jute and Mesta is published by the Agricultural Statistics Division, Directorate of Economics & Statistics and Directorate of Jute Development, Govt. of India. Production of jute goods from industry is compiled by Indian Jute Mills Association and published in Monthly Summary of Jute and Gunny Statistics. Exports of jute goods data on monthly / cumulative basis each published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S). In the Data dissemination portal of DGCI&S, state-wise data on exports is not published.”

53. When asked about the concrete measures taken for exploring new markets for promotion of jute sector, the Ministry stated as under:

“NJB has been exploring market opportunities in Focus and Emerging Countries: Latin America , Africa, Australia & New Zealand to boost exports of jute goods . Latin America and African countries being the Cocoa / Coffee producing countries are potential markets for food grade quality jute cloths / bags . NJB has been planning to organize export

promotion events with Buyer Seller meets with the potential / target customers to renew the contacts with the existing customers and establish new trade channels. Exports of jute diversified products has been the prime focus for promotion in the existing and emerging countries.”

54. With regard to the major countries where Jute is exported and the percentage of share of exports of each country and whether the Ministry are considering exporting jute to other countries also, the Ministry stated as under:

“During 2021-22 : USA (23%), France (10%), Ghana (9%), UK (5%), The Netherlands(5%), Germany (4%), Belgium (4%), Cote D’ Ivoire (4%), Australia (3%), Spain (3%) are the top 10 importing countries of Jute Goods from India, accounted for 70% of total value of jute goods exports.

Ministry of Textiles approved the National Jute Development Programme (NJDP) for implementation by NJB during 2021-22 to 2025-26 which includes Market Development and Promotion Schemes to boost exports of jute goods to achieve an export target at a CAGR of 10% through implementation of innovative and aggressive marketing strategies, initiative and international events in existing and emerging potential countries (Focus LAC, Africa and Australia & New Zealand).

The final export data published by DGCI&S for 2021-22 was Rs 3785.86 crore. The provisional data published by DGCI&S for 2022-23 reveals Rs 3510.60 crore.”

55. Subsequently, the Ministry furnished the following data on country-wise export of jute:

Country	Year 2021-22		Year 2022-23	
	Value (Rs. in Cr.)	%	Value (Rs. in Cr.)	%
USA	881.90	23	723.59	21
France	365.99	10	270.70	8
Ghana	343.07	9	379.71	11
UK	207.21	5	170.71	5
Netherlands	194.22	5	178.39	5

Germany	166.32	4	149.67	4
Belgium	158.27	4	125.09	4
Cote D' Ivoire	155.05	4	200.64	6
Australia	113.45	3	119.51	3
Spain	100.10	3	99.08	3
Other Countries	1100.28	30	1093.51	30
Total Exports	3785.86	100	3510.60	100

IX. IMPORT OF RAW JUTE AND JUTE GOODS

56. The Imports trend during the year 2016-17 to 2023-24, as furnished by the Ministry, is as under:-

(Qty: 000' M.T. / Value: Rs. in Crore)

Period	2016 - 17		2017 - 18		2018-19		2019-20		2020 - 21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24(Apr-Aug) Provisional.	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Raw Jute	138.87	704.22	68.19	289.16	57.28	235.92	77.18	350.39	28.8	179.28	62.52	449.41	121.26	830.27	27.95	208.09
Jute Products	140.40	931.61	115.43	880.28	128.99	951.91	162.58	1362.76	111.18	1116.84	339.50	1392.65	201.04	1532.32	--	692.07
TOTAL	279.27	1635.83	183.62	1169.44	186.27	1187.84	239.76	1713.15	140.06	1296.12	402.02	1842.06	322.30	2362.59	--	900.16

Source: DGCI&S, Ministry of Commerce.

X. IMPORTS OF JUTE GOODS FROM NEPAL AND BANGLADESH & IMPOSITION OF ANTI-DUMPING DUTY

57. Under the Jute & Jute Textiles Control Order, 2016; Jute Commissioner issued a Notification bearing No. 533(E) dated 15-01-2020 directing all Manufacturers, Importers, Processors and traders of jute & jute textiles to

mark/ print/ brand certain words on the items of jute and jute textiles. In case of import of jute bags, the words “Bag made in – Country of Origin” are required to be marked/ printed/ branded. The Objective of issuing this Notification is to ensure that imported jute bags are not used in the foodgrains and sugar sectors till the stipulated percentage of commodities are packed in jute bags.

58. DG, Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties investigated the matter of Anti-Dumping duty on the import of jute products and recommended definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of subject goods from Bangladesh and Nepal and Ministry of Finance imposed the Anti-dumping duty under Notification dated 5th January, 2017 for the five years. This provision was extended upto **31st December, 2022**. Further, D/o Revenue vide notification dated 30.12.2022 has imposed ADD for another five year.

59. These steps have protected the interests of Indian Jute Industry and the persons engaged in the industry.

60. On being asked about the reasons for import of 121.26 thousand metric tons of raw jute in 2022-23, which is highest since 2016-17 and also is just double of the quantity of raw Jute imported in 2021-22, the Ministry responded as under:

“During 2022-23, import of raw jute into India was 121.26 Thousand M.Tons. This is provisional data (Principal Commodity wise import) published by DGCI&S. As compared to 2021-22, import of raw jute during 2022-23 registered 95% increase. India imports raw jute from Bangladesh mainly due to its quality, which are being used for manufacturing value added jute products including fine yarn/special hessian, decorative fabrics, technical textiles etc.

Such value added Jute Diversified Products are having promising export market potential. Exports of Jute Diversified Products from India has been accelerating since 2016-17 (Rs 590 Cr to Rs 1744 Cr in 2021-22).”

61. When asked about the measures being taken to bring the indigenously produced jute at par with its Bangladeshi counterpart, the Ministry stated as under:

“Bangladesh produces superior quality of raw jute. As approved by the Ministry of Textiles, under National Jute Development Programme (NJDP), National Jute Board in collaboration with the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) and Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres(CRIJAF) has been implementing Jute ICARE (Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) for improving quality and productivity of raw jute cultivation. The Report on Evaluation of pilot project on Jute ICARE carried out by National Productivity Council reveals that productivity (yield) increased from 23/24 quintals per hectare to 28/29 quintals per hectare. Similarly, there has been quality upgradation by atleast one grade. Encouraged by the successful implementation, NJB has been implementing Jute ICARE in bigger scale by covering more number of farmers and increasing land under the programme.”

62. When enquired about the measures being taken to bring down the import of raw jute especially from Bangladesh other than the Anti Dumping Duty (ADD), the Ministry stated as under:

“With implementation of Jute ICARE programme : package of modern and scientific agronomic practices viz distribution of Jute Certified Seeds, modern machines for line sowing and mechanical de-weeding, CRIJAF Sona & NINFET (Sathi) as retting accelerator, there has been improvement in quality and productivity of raw jute. The approved NJDP covers implementation of Jute ICARE Programme upto 2025-26 covering 270893 hectares of land, 578234 jute farmers. With implementation of Jute ICARE in bigger scale, the quality and productivity of raw jute would increase and bring down import of raw jute specially from Bangladesh.”

XI. ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF JUTE ORGANIZATIONS UNDER MINISTRY OF TEXTILES.

A) JUTE COMMISSIONER OFFICE

63. The office started functioning in April 1958 following promulgation of Jute Textiles (Control) Order, 1956. The office of Jute Commissioner is a subordinate office of Ministry of Textiles. It is a regulatory body to implement the [Jute Packaging Materials \(Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities\) Act 1987](#) and provisions of Jute and Jute Textiles Control Order 2016 (issued under Essential Commodities Act 1955). Jute Commissioner is the legal authority prescribed in these statutes.

Role of the Jute Commissioner

64. The Jute Commissioner looks after orderly development and promotion of the jute industry in India. He has been discharging both regulatory and developmental functions. This not only includes jute mills, but covers right from jute crop up to the stage of jute goods production and marketing including development of machineries and accessories used in jute manufacturing units.

65. The Jute Commissioner exercises regulatory powers under JPM Act, 1987 and Jute & Jute Textiles Control Order, 2016 notified under the Essential Commodities Act 1955.

Functions of Jute Commissioner Office

- a. To advise the government on all matters pertaining to raw jute, jute marketing, jute industry, modernization and development of jute machinery.
- b. To help the Bureau of Indian Standards to develop appropriate quality standards for different items of jute goods.

- c. To assist different public and state sector bulk consumers to obtain their requirements of jute bags in time for packing of food grains and sugar. In particular, the implementation of the scheme for supply of B. Twill bags by jute mills to FCI and State food grains procuring agencies at cost-plus prices under JPM Act Jute & Jute Textiles Control Order, 2016 is looked after by this office.
- d. To implement the mandatory jute packaging order promulgated under Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 in different end-user sectors covered by the Orders issued under the Act.
- e. To exercise powers vested under Jute & Jute Textiles Control Order 2016 notified under the provisions of the EC Act 1955 to regulate entire Jute Sector.

JUTE-SMART, an e-Governance Initiative for Procurement of B-Twill Sacking has been launched in November, 2016.

66. A decision was taken on 03rd August 2016 by the CCEA stating that the entire activities performed by DGS&D for procurement of jute bags are to be performed by the office of the Jute Commissioner w.e.f 1st November 2016. As per the decision of CCEA, office of the Jute Commissioner has developed an end-to-end web-based platform for procurement, inspection and dispatch of jute bags which is transparent, rule based, simple to use and real time from November, 2016 onwards.

67. At present, the JUTE-SMART software has become operational and indents for a total quantity of around 209.46 lakh bales worth Rs.63.33 thousand crores (approx.) have already been placed through JUTE-SMART from the month of November, 2016 to November, 2023 (as on 09.11.2023).

B) NATIONAL JUTE BOARD

68. National Jute Board (NJB) has been constituted, as per National Jute Board Act, 2008 [No.12 of 2009] subsuming two erstwhile organizations, viz. Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC) and National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD) and effective on and from 1st April 2010. The Head Office of NJB is at Kolkata. Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Board. Secretary, National Jute Board is the ex-officio Member Secretary.

Role of National Jute Board

69. NJB is statutorily mandated for development of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of jute and jute products and for matters connected therewith and incidental there to. Thus, NJB is responsible for development of jute sector from agriculture to finished products.

Functions of National Jute Board:

70. The National Jute Board is statutorily mandated to undertake measures to:

- (i) evolve an integrated approach to jute cultivation in the matters of formulation of schemes, extension work, implementation and evaluation of schemes aimed at increasing the yield of jute and improving the quality thereon ;
- (ii) promote production of better quality raw jute;
- (iii) enhance productivity of raw jute;
- (iv) promote or undertake arrangements for better marketing and stabilization of the prices of raw jute;
- (v) promote standardization of raw jute and jute products;
- (vi) suggest norms of efficiency for jute industry with a view to eliminating waste, obtaining optimum production, improving quality and reducing costs;
- (vii) propagate information useful to the growers of raw jute and manufacturers of jute products;
- (viii) promote and undertake measures for quality control of raw jute and jute products;
- (ix) assist and encourage studies and research for improvement of processing, quality, techniques of grading and packaging; of raw jute;
- (x) promote or undertake surveys or studies aimed at collection and formulation of statistics regarding raw jute and jute products;
- (xi) promote standardization of jute manufactures;
- (xii) promote the development of production of jute manufactures by increasing the efficiency and productivity of the jute industry;
- (xiii) sponsor, assist, coordinate, encourage or undertake scientific, technological, economic and marketing research pertaining to the jute sector;
- (xiv) maintain and improve existing markets and to develop new markets within the country and outside for jute manufactures and to devise marketing strategies in consonance with the demand for such manufactures in the domestic and international markets;
- (xv) sponsor, assist, coordinate or encourage scientific, technological and economic research in the matters related to materials, equipment, methods of production, product development including discovery and development of new materials, equipment and methods and improvements in those already in use in the jute industry;
- (xvi) provide and create necessary infrastructural facilities and conditions conducive to the development of diversified jute products by way of assisting the entrepreneurs, artisans,

craftsman, designers, manufacturers, exporters, non-Governmental agencies in the following manner, namely

- (a) transfer of technology from research and development institutions and other organisations in India and abroad;
 - (b) providing support services to the entrepreneurs for the implementation of their projects including technical guidance and training;
 - (c) organizing entrepreneurial development programmes;
 - (d) planning and executing market promotion strategies including exhibitions, demonstrations, media campaigns in India and abroad;
 - (e) providing financial assistance by way of subsidy or seed capital;
 - (f) providing a forum to the people engaged or interested in diversified jute products for interacting with various national and international agencies, engaged in the jute and jute textile sector;
- (xvii) organize workshops, conferences, lectures, seminars, refresher courses and set up study groups and conduct training programmes for the purpose of promotion and development of jute and jute products;
- (xviii) incorporate measure for sustainable Human Resource Development of the jute sector and to provide necessary funds for the same;
- (xix) modernization of jute sector and technology development;
- (xx) take steps to protect the interests of jute growers and workers and to promote their welfare by improving their livelihood avenues;
- (xxi) secure better working conditions and provisions and improvement of amenities and incentives for workers engaged in the jute industry;
- (xxii) collect statistics with regard to jute and jute products for compilation and publication;
- (xxiii) subscribe to the share capital of or enter into any arrangement (whether by way of partnership, joint venture or any other manner) with any other body corporate for the purpose of promoting the jute sector or for promotion and marketing of jute and jute products in India and abroad.

Initiatives/Schemes for development of Jute Sector by NJB (upto 31.03.2021)

(i) Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Plant and Machinery (ISAPM):

71. To increase the productivity of the jute machinery and make them

efficient by replacing the old machines by new and technologically advanced machines, NJB had been implementing scheme for modernization of jute industry. During 2014-15 to 2020-21, incentive amounting to Rs. 7176.26 lakhs to jute mills and JDP units has been released and likely 5 times of incentivized amount invested by the Jute Mills / JDP Units.

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Rs. in lakhs	362.18	355.57	1739.21	1427.23	920.12	1655.95	726.00
No. of Mills/unit	18	22	39	52	27	20	21

(ii) Jute –ICARE (Jute: Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise):-

72. NJB has been implementing Jute-ICARE (Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) project for the last seven years in a phased manner in association with Jute Corporation of India Ltd. (JCI) and Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres (CRIJAF), Ministry of Agriculture.

(iii) Workers’ Welfare Scheme (Sulabh Sauchalaya):

73. NJB provided assistance to the jute mills for improvement of sanitation, health facilities and working conditions of jute mill workers. The rate of assistance was @ 90% of actual expenses subject to maximum of Rs. 60.00 lakh (per mill/annum). The performance under the Scheme during the last 5 years is given below:-

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Incentive Rs. In Lakh	194.33	249.46	274.13	268.72	471.39
No. of Toilet blocks	340	252	323	210	320
No. of Mills	12	9	10	7	8

(Note – Due to pandemic Covid-19 construction of toilet units in jute mills could not be undertaken during 2019-20 and 2020-21).

74. When asked about the mechanism put in place to ascertain the real situation in the mills/units after providing financial assistance under the Scheme, the Ministry responded as under:

“NJB undertakes periodical physical verification of toilet blocks constructed in jute mills to make an impact assessment. On direct physical interaction with the jute mill workers, it has been ascertained that such Sulabh Sauchalayas provided them the best sanitation and health facilities. A wide spread impact was felt by the jute mill workers and their families.”

75. When asked about the nature of grievances of the jute mill workers and remedial measures taken by NJB, the Ministry stated as under:

“NJB has been interacting with the jute mill workers inviting them participation in the ongoing scholarship scheme. During such interaction, NJB has not received any grievance from jute mill workers. Apart from NJB, O/o Jute Commissioner takes up the grievances of Jute mill workers. Since, the complaints pertaining to labour issues is dealt by other authorities like EPFO, ESIC etc., hence, receipt of such grievances are forwarded to them for taking necessary action. Some of the complaints were in nature of representation against some of the policy issues, which were taken on record. All the complaints received in o/o Jute Commissioner are redressed within a reasonable period. Jute Commissioner Office has given instructions to all the mills to submit monthly returns on fulfillment of statutory dues of the labour. The mills are required to submit monthly report whether they have paid the EPF and ESI due to the labour. Jute Commissioner Office coordinates with the regional office of EPFO for resolution of any EPF related matter.”

76. When asked about the measures the Ministry propose to undertake for the welfare of workers especially with regard to health/occupational hazards, coverage under e-Shram, etc. apart from sanitation and scholarship, the Ministry responded as under:

“Apart from sanitation and scholarship, NJB has been planning to organize medical check- up camps for jute mill workers and their family members during 2023-24, in association with local administration /District Authorities and the Health Departments of respective state governments.”

77. In this context, the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in November, 2023 deposed as under:

“Regarding workers’ welfare, another important point that we would like to emphasize is this. Apart from scholarship programme, in the Board meeting of NJB, we have taken a decision that we will be also organizing health camps, preventive health camps and specialist health camps for all the mill workers who are exposed to the production of jute. Secretary Madam in the Board meeting has already directed NJB to work out the health camps, so that there is preventive medical check-ups and identification of the workers who are facing such problems or about to face such problem and work out an action plan for encouraging them to be coming back to their health. So, this type of health camp can be organized. So, we will make it part of our workers’ welfare apart from sanitation and scholarship. This is also going to be an important feature.”

(iv) Scholarship Scheme for the girl children of the workers of jute mills, MSME-JDP Units.

78. Support has been provided to girl children of the workers of Jute Mills and MSME-JDP units for being passing out in Secondary and Higher Secondary examinations. The performance under the Scheme during 2014-15 to 2020-21 is given below:

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Scholarship Amount Rs. in lakh	187.20	238.84	354.74	277.36	255.25	259.70	268
No. of girl children	2721	3151	4442	3835	3573	3618	3606

(v) Export Market Development Assistance (EMDA) Scheme

79. The EMDA scheme facilitated registered manufacturers and exporters of jute products to participate in the international fairs and business delegation abroad for export promotion of lifestyle and other Jute Diversified Products. The performance under the Scheme during 2014-15 to 2019-20 is given below:

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
EMD assistance Rs. In lakh	272.78	306.48	428.12	384.39	439.81	174.29
No. of regd. Exporters	51	63	73	60	70	52

(Note – Due to pandemic Covid-19 no participation in International Events took place during 2020-21)

(vi) Retail Outlet of Jute Diversified Products and Bulk Supply Scheme

80. Retail Outlet scheme supported supply chain and bulk supply of JDPs for selective and mass consumption to enhance the spread of JDPs all over the country, particularly in the regions where polythene bags have been banned. The performance under the Scheme during 2014-15 to 2020-21 is given below:

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Incentive Rs. in lakh	71.11	94.75	95.15	51.87	30.60	5.00	25.30
No. of units	11	20	25	14	10	3	8

81. The Committee noticed that the performance under the Retail Outlet of Jute Diversified Products and Bulk Supply Scheme continuously deteriorated since 2016-17 except in 2020-21. On being asked about the remedial measures

taken to revive the Scheme and implement it effectively, the Ministry stated as under:

“The Retail Outlets of Jute Diversified Products and Bulk Supply Scheme aims at providing opportunity to the jute entrepreneurs for opening / running sales outlets for display and promotion of jute consumers products and ensure spot / ready availability of Eco friendly jute products, keeping in view consumers keenness for Eco-friendly products and the restrictions imposed by local administration on use of plastic and other synthetic bags. The performance of the scheme among others, was evaluated by Wazir Advisors Pvt. Ltd. during October 2019. The Evaluation Study suggested need for aggressive marketing study for improving performance of the Retail Outlet of the JDPs, recommending to continue the scheme with some modifications. The suggestions and modifications were incorporated in the new Jute Retail Outlet Scheme under NJDP-Umbrella Scheme for implementation.

Under new Jute Retail Outlet Scheme, financial support @ 25% on the sale value of the Jute Diversified Products with an annual ceiling of Rs 36.00 Lakh sale value = Rs 9 Lakh per Jute Retail Outlets per year has been provided.”

(vii) Design Development Scheme - NJB Jute Design Cell at NID –

82. A Jute Design Cell for development of Jute Shopping Bags and Lifestyle Accessories has been set up at the Innovative Centre for Natural Fibres (ICNF) of NID (National Institute of Design), Ahmedabad whose prime objective is to develop newer and innovative Products through design and technology intervention for value addition and better market at home and abroad. NID has already developed more than 100 woven, dyed, finished samples for jute lifestyle accessories and has showcased low cost jute carry bags as an alternative against plastic bags, collapsible Jute bags, etc. Jute bags, namely, fashion bags, Tote bags, foldable hand bags (natural and dyed) have been awarded India Design Mark (I Mark), 2017. As a part of dissemination programme, NID made presentation of the new designs before the industry for proliferation of Jute diversification activities, prototype developments by the Mill/MSME units engaged in production of value added JDPs. NJB also arranged display of those innovative Jute Bags & lifestyle accessories in specialized exhibitions/ Trade fairs, for further business tie-ups.

(viii) Jute Integrated Development (JID) Scheme:

83. JID Scheme aimed at setting up local units and agencies at distant locations around the country through collaboration with bona fide bodies to carry out various activities. JID agencies also acted as a facilitator for rendering the backward and forward linkages to the existing and potential entrepreneurs, imparting awareness and training at grass-root levels mainly on technology application and design /product development and disseminations. JID agencies were also be a prime source for market facilitation to the Jute Diversified Products (JDP) units, SHGs, WSHGs,

NGOs. Thus, helped creating and sustaining the production units there by generating employment to thousands of people in the rural areas through entrepreneurship development and the setting-up of Self Help Groups, particularly Women Self Help Groups(WHSGs).

84. The performance of JID Scheme since its inception in 2016-17 upto 2020-21, is given here under:-

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Rs. in lakhs	39.68	62.20	29.64	9.57	8.92
No. of units	18	25	10	7	5

Outcome – Total No. trainees: 360 + 500 + 200 + 140+ 100 = 1300 (40% of employed CA or in self-employment)

85. During 2016-17 to 2020-21, there were 65 Collaborating Agencies, which imparted, Basic, Advanced & Design Development Training programmes to 1300 beneficiaries for production of Jute Diversified products. As has been assessed, more than 520 beneficiaries are engaged in the Jute diversified activities on job work or self –employment.

86. When asked whether out of 65 Collaborating Agencies, there were tie-ups with foreign agencies also, the Ministry responded as under:

“Under Jute Integrated Development (JID) Scheme, NJB arranged to impart training on Production of Jute Diversified Products through 65 collaborating agencies during 2016-17 to 2020-21. After the training programme, the trainees are either employed in the production unit of the collaborating agencies or start manufacturing Jute Diversified Products of their own. However, the collaborating agencies provide market support services to the trainees through NJB for promotion and sales of jute diversified products in both domestic and international markets.

NJB has not received feedback from the collaborating agencies regarding tie ups with foreign agencies.”

(ix) Jute Raw Material Bank (JRMB) Scheme

87. This scheme aimed at accelerating the pace of JDP activities in the country by catering to the jute unorganized sector and the production units so that jute raw material could be supplied to them regularly at economic rates i.e .mill gate price plus actual transportation cost, to help them manufacture high value products, both for domestic and international markets. That sustainable process increased production base for JDPs and provided employments to rural masses particularly the women for which competent organizations / agencies having backward and forward linkages.

88. The JRMBs acted as a complement to the training & skill development efforts being made by the JID collaborating agencies in their respective

regions to develop new WSHGs, artisans & entrepreneurs in addition to serving the existing WSHGs, artisans & entrepreneurs. The performance of JRMB scheme since its inception in 2016-17 upto 2020-21, is given hereunder:-

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Rs. in lakhs	14.87	34.30	69.56	87.79	28.00
No. of units	9	11	19	10	12

(x) Continuous Market Support-

89. Under this scheme, market support was provided to jute artisans, entrepreneurs, weavers, NGOs, Women Self Help Groups for selling, marketing and promotion of their products in India and abroad. The fairs organized by NJB are meant of livelihood to these groups of people. Some of the prominent events among others were – IITF, Delhi; Poush Mela, Shantiniketan, Kolkata Book Fair, Shilpraman, Madhapur, Hyderabad, Surajkund Mela, Haryana; Tex Trends, Delhi; Taj Mahotsav; Lucknow Mahotsav; Shilpgram, Udaipur; Giftex, Mumbai; Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair, Greater Noida etc. The International fairs, in which participation of regd. Jute exporters were facilitated, are: Hong Kong International Gift Fair, AUTUMN Fair, Birmingham, Domotex, Hannover, ASD Shows, Las Vegas, etc.

C) JUTE CORPORATION OF INDIA

90. The Jute Corporation of India Limited was set up in April 1971. It was incorporated as a company under the Companies Act 1956 and its share capital is wholly owned by the Government of India.

Role of Jute Corporation of India

91. The main role of JCI is to discharge the responsibility of the Nodal Agency of the Govt. of India for carrying out Minimum Price Support (MSP) operations in raw jute. It is obliged to protect the interest of the Jute Growers through procurement of Raw Jute under the MSP fixed by the Govt. of India from time to time and also to stabilize the raw jute market price to the possible extent for the benefit of the jute farmers and the jute economy as a whole.

Functions of Jute Corporation of India

92. JCI has its presence in six jute growing States namely West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura with its Departmental Purchase Center ready for MSP procurement operation through its wide infrastructural network scattered in remote rural jute growing blocks in the country and thus promptly addressing the needs of rural farmers. At present JCI has 110 Purchase Centres (DPC) which are under administrative control of 14 Regional offices and Head office in Kolkata.

93. The requirement of MSP depends upon the demand and Supply situation in the market. JCI maintains its full preparedness to tackle the MSP situation as and when it may arise and for this purpose it keeps its infrastructure (i.e. procurement centre, assortment and godown facilities, manpower etc.) ready always. Government of India approves release grant of subsidy to JCI on yearly basis for maintenance of such infrastructural facilities towards preparedness of MSP operation.

System of monitoring and control over the performance of MSP Scheme of JCI Limited:

94. JCI takes following steps to monitor the MSP scheme:-

- Yearly Performance MoU between Ministry of Textiles and Jute Corporation of India.
- Third Party Evaluation through independent auditor.
- Outputs and Outcomes Monitoring Framework Report.
- Quarterly Performance Report.

Third party evaluation and suggestions for the improvement in the implementation of MSP Scheme of JCI:

95. The third party evaluation of MSP scheme has been carried out. Some major constraints & challenges as follows have been found in the evaluation report on schemes:.

- Fluctuation in prices of raw jute.
- Reaches to all jute farmers in all jute growing locations in the country.
- Unwillingness of state level cooperatives etc to join hands with JCI to carry out MSP operation in large scale.
- Wide spread infrastructural maintenance in order to address MSP operation of jute.
- Payment transfer through RTGS within 3 working days.

96. To address the constraints for smooth running of MSP scheme, following steps have been taken:

- Readiness of all infrastructural facilities of 110 Purchase Centres (DPC) at the beginning of season.
- Efforts to reach all jute farmers, Empanelment of Cooperatives as JCI's outsourcing agencies to carry out MSP of raw jute.
- Wide spread advertisement along with communications with local administrations and organizing/participating in various farmers outreach activities regarding MSP Operations.
- Upgradation of Software App for sending purchase information in quantity and amount in the same day to help payment transfer in 3 working days.

Action taken by JCI on the suggestions / recommendations of third party evaluation

97. JCI has also incorporated the suggestions/recommendations of Third Party Evaluation in its approved SFC Note for grant/subsidy for maintaining infrastructure of MSP Operation in jute for the FY 2021-22 to 2025-26.

98. Based on the Appraisal Note/ Recommendations of the SFC, the Scheme of JCI on maintaining infrastructure for MSP Operation and other related activities during the period of 15th Finance Commission (2021-26) is approved with a total outlay of Rs. 245.87 Cr. The year-wise and component-wise break-ups of approved outlay is as below:-

Rs in Crore					
Component/Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Employee Cost	40.83	40.37	40.21	42.24	44.35
Go-down Rent	2.43	2.54	2.75	2.97	3.42
Other fixed administrative expenses	6.39	6.70	7.00	7.30	7.67
Total Fixed overhead costs for MSP infrastructure	49.65	49.61	49.96	52.51	55.44
% of Total Fixed Overhead to be provided as Annual subsidy/ Grant	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Annual subsidy/ Grant for maintaining its	47.17	44.65	42.47	42.00	41.58

infrastructure for MSP operations and other activities. (A)					
Committed liability for the period (2018- 20)	28.00	-	-	-	-
Total proposed outlay (A+B)	75.17	44.65	42.47	42.00	41.58

99. The major initiatives taken up by JCI are as under:

(i) **Distribution of Certified Seeds:** The Jute Corporation of India Limited has entered into MoU with National Seeds Corporation for distribution of certified jute seeds on commercial basis during 2020-21. This will help around 5 lakhs farmers covering about 22% of the total cultivated land and the spurious seed market will be reduced drastically. The increase in productivity by about 30% will enhance the income of the farmers. In 2020-21, 2021-22& 2022-23 JCI has distributed an aggregate of 766.193MT, 711.26 MT& 266.5 MT of certified jute seeds respectively.

(ii) The Jute Corporation of India Limited in association with the National Jute Board has entered into MoU with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC-ISRO) for the Jute Crop Information system for Jute Crop surveillance and monitoring of the agronomy.

(iii) To replace hand and eye method to identify the grading of raw jute and the allowable moisture content in jute, the Corporation has procured lightweight digital moisture meters for equipping all the Departmental Purchase Centres with this latest variety moisture meters. The Corporation has inaugurated the first of its kind jute instrumental grading laboratory at Katwa, West Bengal.

(iv) The Corporation is also in the process of adoption of Block Chain Technology for the Jute Supply Chain to bring about more transparency and ease of operation of jute trade

100. With regard to instrument-based scientific testing, the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in September, 2023 deposed as under:

“As we know that largely jute is being tested through hand and eye estimation, but there has been a demand and requirement for including instrument-based scientific testing. In this direction, JCI with the support of NINFET has set up its new testing laboratories. Also, IJIRA has developed a digital moisture metre which JCI is going to procure for all its centres. So, this will bring more scientific testing which is one of

the important requirements for jute to comply on the quality parameters.”

101. On being asked whether the testing laboratories have been operationalized and the timeline by which the digital moisture meter will be provided to all the centres, the Ministry stated as under:

“The First Instrumental Jute grading common facility centre (Laboratory) has been setup at Katwa, West Bengal in association with ICAR NINFET. A second laboratory is being planned to be setup at HO, Kolkata. New digital moisture meters have been developed by IJIRA. A total of 63 has already been procured by JCI and distributed to the field units. It is expected that by the year end, all the centres would be equipped with latest light weight digital moisture meters.”

D). NATIONAL JUTE MANUFACTURERS CORPORATION (NJMC):-

102. Under the National Company Limited Act, 1980 and the Jute Companies (Nationalization) Act, 1980, six sick industrial units/mills namely National, Alexandra, Union, Khardah, Kinnison (situated in West Bengal) and RBHM Mills (situated in Bihar) were nationalized and vested with NJMC in June, 1980. Since its inception NJMC was incurring continuous losses. Therefore, Cabinet has approved the proposal of closure of NJMC in its meeting held on 10.10.2018. The closure process is being undertaken as per DPE Guidelines.

E). BIRDS JUTE EXPORTS LIMITED (BJEL), A SUBSIDIARY OF NJMC:-

103. This Company was incorporated as Lansdowne Jute Mill Private Limited in 1904. It became a subsidiary of National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd. in 1986. BJEL stopped production activities w.e.f. October 2002. Since then, the Company had no sales turnover till 2014-15. The Cabinet has approved the proposal of closure of BJEL in its meeting held on 10.10.2018. The closure process is being undertaken as per DPE Guidelines.

XII. SYSTEM OF MONITORING AND CONTROL OVER THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SCHEMES / PROGRAMMES OF NJB

104. A well defined system of monitoring and control over the performance of the schemes/programs has been laid down by NJB. Joint Inspections are carried out by the Joint Inspection Teams (JITs) for selection of the beneficiaries/collaborating agencies under Schemes as well as disbursement of subsidies, wherever applicable. During inspections, officers from other offices/organization viz; O/o Jute Commissioner, Jute Corporation of India, IJIRA, TRAs etc. are also involved. Implementation and progress of schemes/activities is monitored by a Monitoring Committee (MC) chaired by

the Jute Commissioner on regular intervals. All the expenditure on the Scheme are pre-audited as well as post audited. CAG audit is carried out every year as per the provisions provided in the NJB Act and Regulations. Apart from above, the third party evaluation of schemes through independent auditor is also done to evaluate the performance.

105. When specifically asked about the monitoring mechanism developed for effectively implementing various schemes/initiatives run by State Commissioner Office, National Jute Board and schemes run under National Jute Development Program (NJDP), the Ministry responded as under:

“The Schemes under National Jute Development Programme (NJDP) are being implemented by National Jute Board following the approved scheme operational guidelines. As per guidelines, NJB engage Collaborating Agencies having expertise/experience in jute for implementation of specific schemes viz JRCPC, JRMB etc. There has been a Sub Committee constituted for monitoring implementation and review the progress. The Committee reviews the progress of the schemes and report to the Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Jute Commissioner recommending improvement in the progress of implementation.

The participants/ beneficiaries under the scheme submit their feedback reports to NJB with their suggestions/ recommendations for consideration which are examined by the Sub Committee for implementation.

The schemes/initiatives of State Commissioner office relating to development and promotion of jute are monitored by the State. NJB is not involved in their process of monitoring mechanism.”

106. When asked about the number of meetings of Sub-Committee and Monitoring Committee held since inception of NJDP and nature of suggestions/recommendations received from the participants/beneficiaries, the Ministry stated as under:

“The Sub Committee held 3 meetings during implementation of schemes under NJDP. In the meetings, performance of existing Collaborating Agencies engaged under JRCPCs, JRMBs, and status of other schemes under diversification including JROs, PLI are reviewed. Also, selection /engagement of new agencies under these schemes were examined and recommendation forwarded to the Monitoring Committee for approval.

The suggestions/ recommendations of Participants/ Beneficiaries are for simplification of Operational Guidelines like, Removal of Bank Guarantee, Bio-Metric Attendance system, Relaxation on purchase of 50% of Jute products from the WSHGs/ Micro - small units, Relaxation in purchase of Jute yarn and jute fabrics, from organizations other than Jute Mills, Increase the claim amount and to remove Buyers address from Shipping bills & invoice from Claim documents under PLI scheme, etc. The

suggestions / feedbacks received from the participants have been examined and drafted revised guidelines of the respective Schemes and submitted to Ministry of Textiles seeking approval. The proposed modification in the operational guidelines encompassing all the schemes are under active consideration of Ministry.”

107. The Committee were apprised that NJB is not involved in the process of monitoring the schemes run by State Governments. When asked to clarify whether any coordinating mechanism exists to oversee overlapping of Schemes run by Central and State Governments, the Ministry responded as under:

“The schemes being implemented by NJB under NJDP along with operational guidelines are placed in the annual Board meeting of the NJB for discussion on the Annual Action Plan. The Board comprises Secretary, Union Ministry of Textiles as the Chairperson and among others, Representatives of State Governments, as Members of the Board. In the meeting, detailed discussion is held on the progress of the Scheme implementation and suggested way out for making the schemes user- friendly and beneficial to the Jute Industry. As such, there has been no overlapping of Schemes being implemented under Central and State Governments.”

XIII. THIRD PARTY EVALUATION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEMES OF NJB

108. National Jute Board (NJB) got a third party evaluation of its Schemes. Some major constraints & challenges as follows were found in the evaluation report on schemes:

- Decline in area under jute cultivation.
- Non availability of certified seeds.
- Non availability of quality jute raw materials
- Poor and average quality of raw jute and lack of standardization
- Obsolete machinery and lack of modernization.

XIV. ACTION TAKEN BY NJB ON THE SUGGESTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIRD PARTY EVALUATION

109. NJB has already taken-up initiatives to rectify the constraints of Jute Sector. The Evaluation study recommendations / suggestions have been examined and incorporated by NJB while formulating the revised/revamped schemes namely National Jute Development Program (NJDP) for implementation during the period of the 15th Finance Commission, 2021-26.

XV. NATIONAL JUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (NJDP)

110. The National Jute Development Program (NJDP) - an Umbrella Scheme, for development and promotion of Jute Sector has been approved for implementation during 15th Finance Commission Period (2021-2022 to 2025-2026). The Financial Outlay under NJDP is as under-:

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Outlay (Rs. in Crores)					Total
		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	
1	JUTE-ICARE	10.59	12.44	14.44	15.92	15.92	69.31
2	Jute Diversification Scheme (JDS)	31.25	33.55	37.05	38.85	42.75	183.45
3	Market Development & Promotion Scheme (MDPS)	14.22	25.90	25.90	25.90	25.90	117.82
4	Scholarship Scheme for Girl Children of Workers of Jute Mills/MSME JDP unit	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	15.00
5	Total:	59.06	74.89	80.39	83.67	87.57	385.58
6	Admn. & Estt. Expenses	18.00	19.00	20.00	21.00	22.00	100.00
7	Grand Total	77.06	93.89	100.39	104.67	109.57	485.58

111. With regard to the amount spent on the development and promotion of Jute Industry under National Jute Development Programme (NJDP), the Ministry stated that during 2021-22 and 2022-23, total amount of Rs 4475.37 Lakh and Rs 4175.24 Lakh had been spent under NJDP.

112. NJDP comprises the following Schemes/Sub-Schemes for implementation by National Jute Board (NJB) at total financial outlay of Rs 485.58 crore.

A) **JUTE-ICARE (Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) Scheme**

Objective - To improve quality and productivity in Jute Cultivation with

introduction of a package of modern and scientific agronomic practices through:

- Distribution of high Yielding Varieties (HYV) of certified jute seeds @ 50% cost to increase the quality, productivity and farmer's income.
- Free of cost distribution of CRIJAF Sona (a microbial Consortium) to Jute farmers for fast and quality retting of jute fibre. Retting time is reduced by 1 week and quality is improved by 1 grade.
- Free of cost distribution of modern & Scientific Agronomic tools- seed drills, cycle nail weeder.

Target set for five years: Covering of 290 jute growing blocks, 2,70,893 Hectare land, number of jute farmers to be covered 5,78,000. Total financial outlay Rs 69.31 crore.

113. Further, the project has been kept under approved National Jute Development Programme (NJDP) for the year 2021-22 to 2025-26. Physical progress of Jute I CARE is as follows: -

Particulars	ICARE-I (2015-16)	ICARE-II (2016-17)	ICARE-III (2017-18)	ICARE-IV (2018-19)	ICARE-V (2019-20)	ICARE-VI (2020-21)	ICARE-VII (2021-22)	ICARE-VIII (2022-23)
• No. of Jute growing block / state covered	4 Blocks under W.B & Assam	14 Blocks under W.B, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, A.P & Meghalaya	30 Blocks under W.B, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, A.P & Meghalaya	69 Blocks under W.B, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, A.P & Meghalaya	72 blocks under W.B, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, A.P and Meghalaya	130 blocks under WB, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Meghalaya, AP & Tripura	140 blocks under WB, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Meghalaya, AP & Tripura	212 blocks under WB, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Meghalaya, A.P & Tripura
• Land covered(Ha)	12331	26264	70628	98897	106934	110893	125000	163757
• No. of farmers covered	21548	41616	102372	193070	243549	258324	300000	364862
• Certified Jute seed distributed (JRO-204 JBO-2003H)	64 MT	160 MT	500 MT	755 MT	535 MT	604 MT	800 MT	193.54 MT
• Seed drill machine (Nos)	350	700	1200	1950	2550	3150	4150	4950
• Nail Weeder machine (Nos)	500	700	1200	1950	2850	3750	4950	5750
• CRIJAF SONA (MT)	83 MT	273MT	206MT	610MT	612MT	500MT	650 MT	600 MT

Note: The progress figure shown under number of blocks, area of land, number of farmers, seed drill machine and nail weeder machine is cumulative figure. Every year under the scheme, some new targets are captured along with previous years achieved target.

114. NJB assigned the study “Evaluation of Pilot Project on Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise (Jute ICARE)” to National Productivity Council, Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India, New Delhi during 2018-19 to assess the impact of Jute ICARE in 10 districts spread across 5 states: Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Odisha and West Bengal. The evaluation report reveals that the project resulted in improving jute agriculture in the following manner: -

- (a) Increase in jute production (yield) from existing 23/24 quintals per hectare to 28/29 quintals per hectare.
- (b) Quality upgradation at least one grade high.
- (c) Increase in farmers’ income by approximately Rs 10,000/- to Rs 12,000/- per hectare due to production and quality improvement.

115. The target and achievement for 2021-22 and 2022-23 are as under:

2021-22		2022-23	
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
➤ 150 blocks	• 140 blocks	➤ 180 Jute growing blocks	• 212 Blocks
➤ 1,30,893 Hectare land	• 1,25,000 Hectares land	➤ 1,60,893 Hectare land	• 1,63,757 Hectare land
➤ 2,98,324 farmers	• 3,00,000 farmers	➤ 3,58,324 Jute farmers	• No of farmers- 3,64,862
➤ Certified Seed distribution - 100 M.Ton	• Certified Seed distributed- 800 M.Ton	➤ 200 MT Certified Jute Seeds	• Certified Seed distributed- 193.54M.Ton
➤ Rs 10.59 Crore – Financial outlay	• Exp.- Rs. 13.95 Crore	➤ Rs 12.44 Crore - Financial Outlay	• Rs7.01 crore

116. The Committee noted that under Improved Cultivation and Retting Exercise (ICARE) Scheme, to improve quality and productivity in jute cultivation by distribution of High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of certified seeds, distribution of CRIJAF Sona & distribution of modern & scientific tools, against the target of covering 5,78,000 farmers in the five years, during 2022-23, 3,64,862 farmers were benefited. When asked to provide State/District-wise details of beneficiaries as well as the time period by which the target is proposed to be achieved, the Ministry furnished the following details:

“State/District wise number of jute farmers participated under Jute ICARE Programme (2020-21):

Sl. No	State	District	No. of Farmers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Vijay Nagram	2066
		Srikakulam	3100
2.	Assam	Naogaon	10,850
		Barpeta	9300
		Sonitpur	2325
		Salmara	2325
		Hozai	1550
		Kamrup	1550
		Gwalpara	1550
		Chirag	1550
3.	Bihar	Katihar	5812
		Purnia	1164
		Araria	5812
		Kishanganj	1164
		Supaul	3875
4.	Meghalaya	West Garo Hills	5166
5.	Odisha	Cuttack	4520
		Jajpur	4520
		Kendrapara	1937
		Keonjhar	1937
6.	West Bengal	Hooghly	2320
		24 Pgs (N)	24,861
		Malda	8287
		Nadia	29,834
		Cooch Behar	12,430
		South Dinajpur	8287
		North Dinajpur	8287
		Murshidabad	29,834
		Jalpaiguri	12,430
		Alipore Dwar	8287

“The target of 5,78,000 farmers is proposed to be covered during 2025-26.”

117. On being asked about the area covered and the number of farmers benefitted since 2021-22 under Jute ICARE Programme and whether the Ministry will be able to meet the target by 2025-26, the Ministry responded as under:

“JUTE -ICARE was started since -2015-16. The Jute Corporation of India is implementing it at the field level through its field offices/Departmental Purchase Centres available across all the jute growing states. From 2015-16, till 2020-21, the

ICARE programme was spread to 2,58,324 farmers covering 1,10, 893 hectare of land. Subsequently, under NJDP, the scheme has been included to extend it further. The details are given here under –

Sl. No	Details	Cumulative Achievements till 2020-21	Cumulative Achievements in 2021-22	Cumulative Achievements in 2022-23	Cumulative Achievements in 2023-24
1.	Land Covered (hectare)	1,10,893	1,25,000	1,63,757	1,91,272
2.	No. of Jute Farmers Covered	2,58,324	3,00,000	3,64,862	4,35,214

The Ministry is committed to achieve the target fixed under the Jute I-CARE scheme by 2025-26.”

118. It was informed that under ICARE Scheme, MGNREGA funds are being used for retting tanks. On being enquired about the role of the Ministry/JCI play to help/assist farmers in setting up of tanks under MGNREGA, the Ministry stated as under:

“JCI collects list of Farmer’s who are willing to provide land for construction of Retting Tank,after securing their willingness. The list of Farmers is submitted to District Magistrate. Such constructions are done through the convergence of GOI funds under MGNREGA, PMKSY & RKVY.

For the maintenance of the retting ponds constructed under the above-mentioned schemes, NJB provides one-time payment of Rs 5000/- per pond.”

119. When enquired about the number of farmers who have expressed their willingness to provide land for construction of Retting Tanks, the number of Retting Tanks constructed and the financial assistance provided by NJB for maintenance of retting tanks/ponds, the Ministry responded as under:

“The process of construction of retting ponds under ICARE involves two phases i.e. Construction and Maintenance. Construction part is in convergence with MGNREGA, PMKSY and RKVY scheme of GoI and after completion of construction part one time maintenance assistance is given under ICARE scheme of NJB which is being implemented at the field by JCI through its field offices/DPCs. Progress of the scheme is monitored by a Monitoring Committee (MC) constituted by NJB and approved by the Board of NJB. The Committee is headed by the Jute Commissioner. Meetings of the MC are organized on regular basis and requisite funds are made available to JCI well in advance for providing one time maintenance assistance towards constructed retting tanks.

Farmers have initially shown their willingness for the retting pond construction on their land. Details of which are as below:

- (i) Total 6771 farmers have expressed their willingness to provide land for construction of retting ponds.
- (ii) Number of tanks completed 194. However, none of farmers have claimed financial assistance for the maintenance of constructed retting tanks.

Since, construction of retting tank is to be done in convergence with MGNREGA, PMKSY and RKVY, therefore, NJB and JCI have made several communication with State Government and awareness programs have also been done at District and Panchayat level to expedite the construction of retting tanks.”

120. When asked to indicate the reasons for decline in quality of jute and the factors responsible for the same and the steps being taken to enhance both quality and quantity of the jute in the Country, the Ministry stated as under:

Following factors may be the reason for decline in quality of raw jute:

- a. Broadcasting method of seed sowing instead of line sowing
- b. Usage of non-certified truth label seeds
- c. Using traditional agronomic practices
- d. Using conventional retting techniques with insufficient water and without retting accelerators

The grade out-turn of Jute has improved with Intervention of the project Jute I-CARE. High yield certified jute seed are distributed with a subsidy. Under Project Jute I-CARE, Advanced Agronomic tools like seed drill, nail weeder, cycle weeders are distributed free of cost and adequate demonstrations are made for advanced retting techniques.”

121. When asked about the steps being taken to minimize damage of crops and to educate the farmers in this regard and how it is ensured that the increase in productivity does not compromise with the quality of the jute, the Ministry responded as under:

“To minimize crop damage, advisories are issued from ICAR-CRIJAF from time to time. Through the project Jute I-CARE Agronomic protocol both quality and quantity Jute crop is being promoted.

The increase in productivity is ensured with the introduction of new types of High Yield Variety seeds and introduction of advanced agronomic practices and tools. Line sowing with seed drills ensure uniform and healthy growth of the plants. The quality on the other hand is ensured by the introduction of certified seeds, usage of advanced retting techniques using retting accelerators which hasten the retting

period to 10-12 days and at the same time yield a produce of a higher grade.”

122. The representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in September, 2023 deposed as under:

“Secondly, in the retting process, retting accelerators are being used. Earlier, the retting process took about 21-22 days or so. Now with retting accelerators, that period is shortened to about 10-12 days. The possibility of crop getting damaged reduces. In Jute, contamination is one reason for bringing down the quality.”

123. The representative of the Ministry supplemented as under:

“But in terms of better raw jute quality, we find that there is a very poor or average quality because of which we are import dependent on Bangladesh for a better-quality fibre and because of this the value-added products require better quality raw jute. This is one of the important challenges. This can be addressed by more emphasis on provision of flowing water which can be done through water retting. CRIJAF has developed models for water retting within its campus. This needs to be scaled up.”

(i) Skilling of jute farmers

124. When asked to provide State-wise details of the number of jute farmers skilled during the last three years and whether the Ministry/NJB has any technologically advanced/upgraded laboratory to provide good quality seeds to the jute farmers to enable them to increase jute production, the Ministry stated as under:

“NJB in Collaboration with the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) and Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres (CRIJAF) has been implementing Jute ICARE Programme. One of the important components under Jute ICARE is to provide training to the Registered Jute Farmers, wherein the farmers are made aware and motivated for adopting better agronomic practices for jute cultivation. CRIJAF has been allocated the work for imparting training to Register farmers at various stages of jute production.

Certified Jute Seeds: new varieties JRO-2024, JBO-2003H have gained popularity under Jute ICARE and inculcated confidence about better results to increase jute production. The jute seeds are sourced from National Seed Corporation (NSC) and the JCI ensures timely availability of certified jute seeds at doorsteps in all the states. NJB has no technologically advanced/upgraded laboratory to provide good quality seeds to the jute farmers.”

125. The Ministry were again asked to provide data regarding State-wise details of the number of jute farmers skilled during the last three years. In response, the Ministry stated as under:

“The registered jute farmers under Jute –ICARE , were provided training for their skilled development by the scientists of ICAR- CRIJAF, Block Supervisor and master trainers working under JUTE-ICARE through training and field demonstrations regarding line sowing, multi row jute seed drill, mechanical weeding, nail weeder & CRIJAF single wheel jute weeder and improved retting technique using CRIJAF SONA during the jute growing season. The state-wise skilled farmers are given below:

SL.No.	STATES	Total Farmers trained under ICARE in the last 3 Years
1.	WEST BENGAL	2,48,468
2.	BIHAR	1,25,975
3.	ASSAM	42,246
4.	ORISSA	4,031
5.	ANDRA PRADESH	343
6.	MEGHALAYA	3,328
7.	JHARKHAND	10,823
TOTAL		4,35,214

126. The Committee noted that one of the important components under Jute ICARE is to provide training to the Registered Jute Farmers for which Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres (CRIJAF) has been allocated the work. When asked to furnish information about the number of jute farmers in the country and, out of them, how many are registered, the Ministry stated as under:

“It is estimated that there are 40 lakh (though not verified) jute farmers in the country. In the ensuing year, in the tenth phase of I-CARE scheme, it has been planned to carry out survey for efficacy of the scheme and a more reliable estimate of total number of jute farmers through an outside agency. Till, the 9th phase of I-CARE project, 4.35 lakh farmers have been registered.”

127. In this context, the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in September, 2023 deposed as under:

“India is the world’s largest producer of jute accounting for more than half of the world’s total jute production. It is also a very important cornerstone of our economy. It provides livelihood to 40 lakhs farm families and direct employment to four lakh workers in organised mills and in diversified sectors.”

B) Jute Diversification Scheme (JDS)

Sub-Schemes:

(i) Capital Subsidy for Acquisition of Plant & Machinery (CSAPM) for Jute Diversified Products

Objective -To Facilitate modernization / Upgradation of the existing Jute mills and MSME JDP Units, manufacturing Jute Diversified Products through incentive @ 30% of the cost of machineries. The upper ceiling of the assistance under the Scheme is Rs.1.5 Cr. / beneficiary unit during the entire tenure of the Scheme.

Target set for five years: Investment of Rs 100 crore in acquisition of new machineries for production of JDPs by 100 Jute Mills/MSME-JDP Units. The total financial outlay is Rs 30.00 crore.

Target and Achievement:

2021-22		2022-23	
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investment – Rs 2000 Lakhs ➤ 20 Jute Mills/MSME JDP Units ➤ Rs 6.00 Crore – Financial outlay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Applications (LOI) • 15 exporters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investment – Rs 20.00 crore ➤ 20 Jute Mills/MSME JDP Units ➤ Rs 6.00 Crore- Financial outlay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment Amount of Rs 2.37 Crore • 6 Claims applications received • 3 Claims settled – Rs 71.10 Lakh released

128. The Ministry furnished data regarding Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Plant and Machinery (ISAPM) up till 2020-21. When asked about the number of Mills/Units covered during 2021-22 and 2022-23, the Ministry stated as under:

“The Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Plant and Machinery (ISAPM) Scheme was under implementation upto 2020-21. From 2021-22, under ongoing NJDP, the Capital Subsidy for Acquisition of Plant & Machinery (CSAPM) for manufacturing Jute Diversified Products has been under implementation. During 2021-22 and 2022-23, 3 applications (3 units) have been covered under the CSAPM Scheme and disbursed Rs.

71.10 Lakh. against investment of Rs.2.37 Crore. Also, 13 units have submitted their applications of LOI for participation under the CSAPM Scheme from whom claim applications are awaited.”

129. With regard to the amount spent on the modernization of jute mills during 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, the Ministry stated as under:

“NJB implemented Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Plant & Machinery (ISAPM) Scheme for modernization of jute industry upto 2020-21. With the approval of National Jute Development Programme, Capital Subsidy for Acquisition of Plant & Machinery (CSAPM) for Jute Diversified Products is under implementation during 2021-22 to 2025-26.

During 2020-21, under ISAPM Scheme Rs 726.00 Lakh was spent. During 2021-22 and 2022-23, under CSAPM Scheme Rs 71.10 Lakh has been spent.”

130. The representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in September, 2023 deposed as under:

“...the capital subsidy used to be for the mills. Now, the focus is on the JDP units. The scheme envisages encouragement of JDPs by giving 30 per cent for modernization of JDP units. So, with our cap of 1.5 crore for the JDP units, we have received about LOIs from 10 JDP units and inspections have started because this is a project which has a larger gestation period. They give the LOIs and then they procure the machines. Machines are installed, we do the inspection and then the subsidy is given.”

131. On being asked whether any collaboration has been entered into with foreign countries in transfer of technology for development and upgradation of machinery under Jute Industry, the Ministry stated that NJB has not entered with foreign countries in transfer of technology for development and upgradation of machinery under jute industry.

(ii) Jute Resource cum Production Centres (JRCPCs)

Objective-To spread jute diversification programme through providing trainings to new artisans and WSHGs and sustained employment for production of JDPs.

- Rs. 2.48 Lakh per cycle of activities (1 Basic, 1 Advanced & 1 Design Training for 49 days).
- Incentive @ 20% on the cost of activities undertaken will be given to the Collaborating Agencies to meet operational and maintenance cost of JRCPC.

Target set for five years: 150 JRCP Centres to be set up. Training- 18,000.
New employment - 10,800. Total financial outlay Rs 36.00 crore.

Target and Achievement:

2021-22		2022-23	
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 20 JRCPs ➤ 2,400 New Jute Trainees ➤ 1,440 New Employment ➤ Rs 4.80 Crore-Financial Outlay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 JRCP • 120 New jute trainees • Training on woolenised jute carpet and braided items. • Training Centres at : West Bengal-Darjeeling, Murshidabad, • Exp.- Rs. 6.72 Lakh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 25 JRCPs ➤ 3,000 New Jute Trainees ➤ 1,800 New Employment ➤ Rs 6.00 crore - financial outlay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 JRCP • 432 New jute trainees. Exp.- Rs. 0.41Crore

132. The Committee noted that out of 150 JRCPs proposed to be set up to provide employment to 10,800 artisans at total financial outlay of Rs. 36 crore, only 26 JRCPs were set up. When asked about the time line prescribed for setting up the remaining 124 JRCPs, the number of artisans provided employment and the expenditure incurred, the Ministry stated as under:

“The cumulative total target of setting-up JRCPs in 5 years (2021-2022 to 2025-26) is 150 for training 18,000 and employment generation is 10,800.

During 2021-22 and 2022-23, through setting-up of 26 JRCPs, a total number of artisans /beneficiaries imparted training were 800. It is reported by the Collaborating Agencies that of 800 artisans/ beneficiaries, 132 are employed, either in the production units or self- employed.

During 2023-24, total target of JRCPs is 30. Till end October 2023, total 15 Collaborating Agencies are engaged. The selected Collaborating Agencies organized 17 training programmes and provided training to 408 artisans / beneficiaries. It is reported by the Collaborating Agencies that out of 408 trainees, 150 are employed. NJB has been in the process of selecting / engaging remaining 15 more Collaborating Agencies.

Hence, till October 2023, 41 JRCPs set-up, Total No. of Trainees (Artisans/ Beneficiaries) are 1208, of which 282 are employed in the production units or self-employed. Expenditure incurred during 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 (till Oct-2023) under JRCP scheme is Rs. 83.26 Lakh. Remaining JRCPs i.e. 99 may be set-up by March, 2026.”

133. When asked to provide State-wise details of JRCPs, the training capacity of each centre, number of beneficiaries imparted training and the outcome of the training provided, the Ministry furnished the following details:

“Furnished below is the state-wise JRCPCs, imparted trainings on jute diversified products during 2022-23.

Sl. No	States	Collaborating Agencies Engaged	No of Programmes Organized/No trainees	Training of capacity
1.	J&K	01	02/48	120
2.	Uttar Pradesh	01	02/48	120
3.	Uttrakhand	02	04/96	240
4.	Haryana	01	02/48	120
5.	Jharkhand	01	01/24	120
6.	Odisha	01	01/24	120
7.	West Bengal	01	01/24	120
8.	Madhya Pradesh	01	01/24	120
9.	Tripura	01	01/24	120
10.	Nagaland	02	02/48	240
11.	Tamil Nadu	01	01/24	120
	Total	13	18/432	1560

Besides, the training activities conducted by JRCPCs, NJB also launched pilot project on woolenisation of jute and jute bags by engaging 08 Collaborating Agencies and imparted trainings to 368 artisans in Cuttack (Odisha), Kalingpong, Murshidabad, Kolkata (West Bengal), Srinagar (J&K), Bhadoi (UP), Kullu (HP).

The successful trainees are either engaged by the collaborating agencies in the existing production centre or started production unit of their own having close tie up with the collaborating agencies. 2023-24 is the third year of implementation of NJDP – JRCPC Scheme. NJB has not commissioned Evaluation Study to assess outcome of the training provided under JRCPC Scheme.”

134. As per the data furnished by the Ministry, it was noticed that the annual training capacity of JRCPCs in eleven States is 1560, however, only 432 candidates were provided training by organizing 18 training programmes in 2022-23. It was also noticed that out of eleven States, in four States *viz.* J&K, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand and Haryana, only 40% of training capacity of JRCPCs was utilized and in respect of the remaining seven States only 20% training capacity was utilized. When asked about the steps being taken to increase the number of trainees as well as the programmes so as to fully utilize the training capacity of JRCPCs, the Ministry stated as under:

“As per the approved JRCPC scheme guidelines, the collaborating agencies selected for imparting trainings has to complete 5 cycles of training programme during each year.NJB is in the process of increasing the number of training programs through pursuing the matter with collaborating agencies / JRCPCs in various states to achieve the target under the scheme.”

135. When asked to provide State/District-wise details of skill development/training provided by NJB to WSHGs and how the Ministry/NJB propose to provide the employment opportunities to such trainees, the Ministry stated as under:

“The state/district wise JRCPCs those who imparted trainings on jute diversified products during 2022-23 are as under:

Sl. No	States	District	Name of CA-JRCPC
1.	J&K	Srinagar	M/s Dilnawaz Sozni Embroidery Industrial Cooperative Society
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur	M/s Mahila Sikshan Evam Prasikshan Kendra
3.	Uttrakhand	Rishikesh	M/s Bhartiya Gramotthan Sanstha
		Nainital	M/s Nirmala Social Research & Development Society
4.	Haryana	Panipat	M/s The Ashoka Handloom & Handicraft Society
5.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	M/s Chhotanagpur Craft Development Society
6.	Odisha	Cuttack	Rural Organization for Social Action
7.	West Bengal	Kalingpong	M/s Hayden Hall Institute
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	M/s The 5 th Dimension Academy
9.	Tripura	Tripura West	M/s Samaj Shakti Society
10.	Nagaland	Dimapur	M/s Kudatech Skill Centre
			M/S Pro Rural
11.	Tamil Nadu	Madurai	M/s Small Industries Product Promotion Organization

The objective of JRCPC Scheme is to provide training on Jute Diversified Products through collaborating agencies. After the training is completed, the successful trainees are engaged in the existing production centre of the Collaborating Agency or start production unit of their own for self sustenance. The agencies extend backward and forward linkages required for production, sales and marketing of JDPS. NJB acts as facilitator to provide Market Support in terms of accommodating their participation in various Regional / National Level jute fairs/exhibitions for promotion and sale of jute diversified products.”

136. The Committee further noted that 2023-24 is the third year of implementation of NJDP – JRCPC Scheme and NJB has not commissioned any Evaluation Study to assess outcome of the training provided under the Scheme. When asked whether the Ministry propose to conduct mid- term evaluation of the Scheme, the Ministry responded as under:

“In order to assess the performance of the schemes being implemented under NJDP, an MoU has been signed between the Ministry and NJB to evaluate the schemes through a third party agency during the first quarter of 2024-25.”

(iii) Jute Raw Material Bank (JRMB)

Objective - To Supply jute raw materials to Jute Artisans, MSMEs JDP Producing units, and Beneficiaries of JRCPs to manufacture Jute Diversified Products at Mill Gate Price.

- Support @ 30% on the sale value of the Jute Raw Material within an annual ceiling of Rs. 12.00 Lakh per JRMB per Yr.

Target set for five years: 140 JRMBs to be opened to provide Jute Raw Materials. Total financial outlay is Rs. 16.80 crore.

Target and Achievement:

2021-22		2022-23	
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
20 JRMBs Rs 2.40 crore- Financial Outlay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21JRMBs- Collaborating Agencies UP-Varanasi, Punjab- Amritsar, West Bengal- Howrah, Kolkata Andhra Pradesh- Vizag, Eluru • Expenditure- Rs. 0.75 Crore 	20 JRMBs Rs 2.40 crore- Financial Outlay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 JRMBs • Exp.- Rs. 1.46crore

137. The Ministry stated that to ensure supply of Jute Raw Materials at Mill Gate Price to Artisans, WSHGs & MSME JDP Units in their clusters, during 2022-23 about 21 Jute Raw Material Banks (JRMBs) were set up in 6 States. When asked to elaborate how setting up of JRMBs has benefited the targeted persons, the Ministry responded as under:

“During 2022-23, 21 Jute Raw Material Bank are in operation. State wise number of Jute Raw Material Banks are given below: -

State	Name / Place	No of beneficiaries (MSME/WSHG)
Andhra Pradesh	Sri Ganga Sutha Eco Eclectics, Eluru	50
	Saraswathi Jute Creations, Visakhapatnam	29
Haryana	Ashoka Handlooms & Handicraft Society, Panipat, Haryana	25
Jharkhand	Chotanagpur Craft Development Society,	Claim/report not

	Ranchi	submitted
Telangana	Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad	50
	The Jute World, Hyderabad	42
	Saran Jute Bags, Hyderabad	40
	Sri Manjira Handlooms, Hyderabad	44
Uttar Pradesh	Durga Trading Company, Varanasi	26
	Satyam Handicraft Trading Company, Kushwaha Katra	Claim/report not submitted
West Bengal	Jharna Jute Handicrafts, Kolkata	24
	Jute House, Purba Bardhaman	40
	Polempur Womens Welfare Society, Purba Bardhaman	46
	Sarkar Jute Craft, Sarat Pally, Kolkata	24
	M/s Arrow India, Kolkata	22
	Generic India, Kolkata	22
	Gitali Jute Enterprise, Howrah	Claim/report not submitted
	Netai Sewing, North 24 Parganas	20
	OSB Overseas Pvt Ltd, Kolkata	26
	Om Fabric, Kolkata	21
Roy Traders, Purba Bardhaman	40	

The existing MSME-JDP Units and WSHGs face difficulty in sourcing jute raw materials in smaller quantities locally or directly from the jute mills which hampers their production schedule. The JRMBs cater to the requirements of these MSME/WSHGs Units and supply Jute Raw Materials at Mill Gate Price for production of Jute Diversified Products. As may be seen above, in 06 states the 21 JRMBs supply jute raw materials to 591 jute units.”

138. The Committee noted that out of 140 JRMBs proposed to be opened during 2021-22 to 2025-26 to provide Jute Raw Materials at total financial outlay of Rs. 16.80 crore, only 42 JRMBs (21 in 2021-22 and 21 in 2022-23) were set up. When asked about the the time line prescribed for setting up the remaining 98 JRMBs and the expenditure incurred, the Ministry stated as under:

“The details of target and achievement under JRMB scheme upto Oct., 2023 are as under:

Year	Target	Achievement	Expenditure (Rs. In Cr.)
2021-22	20	21	0.75
2022-23	20	21	1.46
2023-24 (upto Oct, 2023)	30	30	0.70
Total	70	72	2.91

Hence, the total target of JRMBs for 3 years is 70 and total JRMBs in operation are 72. It is expected that the target of 140 JRMBs in five years will be achieved.”

139. In this context, the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in November, 2023 deposed as under:

“Another important sub-component of the scheme is the Jute Raw Material Bank. This has been very useful because the raw material, including the fabrics also, is made available to the banks at mill gate price and also with a discount of five per cent on the purchase value. This fabric or raw material, which is ordered from the mills at mill gate price, is then provided to the local artisans and the women self-help groups. So, even a very small quantity, as desired by the self-help groups, can also be available under the JRMB. They get that raw material at a discount. Therefore, they are much more cost competitive. Also, even the smallest of smallest quantity, which is desired by the self-help groups for their production, is also provided by the JRMBs. That is another advantage that this sub-component of the scheme has provided.”

(iv) Jute Retail Outlets (JRO)

Objective: To facilitate existing and new Artisans / Entrepreneurs, for promotion & Sale of JDPs through Retail Outlets / Showroom.

- Support @ 25% on the sale value of the Jute Diversified Products (JDPs) with an annual ceiling of Rs. 9.00 Lakh per JRO per Yr.

Target set for five years: 140 Jute Retail Outlets of Jute Diversified Products.
Total financial outlay Rs 12.60 crore.

Target and Achievement:

2021-22		2022-23	
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
20 JROs Rs 1.80 crore- Financial Outlay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 Jute Retail Outlets Uttarakhand-Rishikesh, UP-Varanasi, Karnataka-Bangalore Tamil Nadu-Coimbatore Maharashtra-Pune Jharkhand-Ranchi West Bengal - Kolkata, Burdwan, Howrah • Expenditure- Rs. 0.30 Crore 	20 JROs Rs 1.80 crore- Financial Outlay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 JROs • Expenditure - Rs. 0.38Crore

140. The Committee noted that out of 140 Jute Retail Outlets of Jute Diversified Products, only 26 JROs were set up. (13 in 2021-22 and 13 in 2022-23). When asked to provide State/District wise details of 26 JROs, the

time line prescribed for setting up the remaining 114 JROs and the expenditure incurred, the Ministry responded as under:

“Cumulative total target of JROs during 5 – year period (2021-2022 to 2025-26) is 140. During 2021-22, target number of JROs were 20 and 13 JROs were in operation. During 2022-23, target number of JROs was 20, and 13 JROs were in operation. During 2023-24, target number of JROs is 30 and till end of October 2023, 22 JROs are in operation.

Hence, cumulative total target for 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24) is 70 and total JROs operated 48 with an expenditure of Rs. 0.49 crore. The remaining 92 JROs would be selected and start operation during 2023-24(22 No.), 2024-25(30 No), 2025-26(40 No). State /District wise details of 26 JROs during 2021-22 and 2022-23 are furnished below:

2021-22

State	District	Name of Beneficiary
Uttarakhand	Rishikesh,	M/s BhartiyaGramotthanSansthan
Maharashtra	Pune	M/s Karaakruti
Jharkhand	Ranchi,	M/s Chotonagpur Craft Development Society
Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi	M/s Durga Trading Company
West Bengal	Birbhum	M/s Polempur Women Welfare Society
	Howrah	M/s Gitali Jute Enterprise,
	Kolkata	M/s Rakshak Foundation
Himachal Pradesh	Manali	M/s Sarkar Jute Craft
Karnataka	Bangalore	M/s Jute Cottage
	Bangalore	M/s Jute Cottage
	Bangalore	M/s Jute Cottage
	Bangalore	M/s Jute Cottage
Tamilnadu	Coimbatore	M/s Snap Jutes
Total		13

2022-23

Uttarakhand	Rishikesh,	M/s BhartiyaGramotthanSansthan
Maharashtra	Pune	M/s Karaakruti
Jharkhand	Ranchi,	M/s Chotonagpur Craft Development Society
Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi	M/s Durga Trading Company
West Bengal	Birbhum	M/s Polempur Women Welfare Society
	Howrah	M/s Gitali Jute Enterprise,
	Kolkata	M/s Rakshak Foundation
Himachal Pradesh	Manali	M/s Sarkar Jute Craft
Karnataka	Bangalore	M/s Jute Cottage
	Bangalore	M/s Jute Cottage
	Bangalore	M/s Jute Cottage

	Bangalore	M/s Jute Cottage
Tamilnadu	Coimbatore	M/s Snap Jutes
Total		13

141. Subsequently, the Ministry furnished State /District wise details of 22 JROs during 2023-24 (upto October 2024) as under:

2023-24			
1	M/s BhartiyaGramotthanSansthan	Rishikesh,	Uttarakhand
2	M/s Karaakruti	Pune	Maharashtra
3	M/s Chotonagpur Craft Development Society	Ranchi,	Jharkhand
4	M/s Durga Trading Company	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh
5	M/s Polempur Women Welfare Society	Birbhum	West Bengal
6	M/s Gitali Jute Enterprise,	Howrah	West Bengal
7	M/s Sarkar Jute Craft	Manali	Himachal Pradesh
8	M/s Jute Cottage	Bangalore	Karnataka
9	M/s Jute Cottage	Bangalore	Karnataka
10	M/s Jute Cottage	Bangalore	Karnataka
11	M/s Jute Cottage	Bangalore	Karnataka
12	M/s Snap Jutes	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
13	Mitra Fabrication	24 Parganas, (South)	West Bengal
14	M/s Sai Sri Jute Products	Eluru	Andhra Pradesh
15	M/s Roy Traders	Bolpur	West Bengal
16	M/s Jute Cottage	Bangalore	Karnataka
17	M/s Karaakruti	Bangalore	Karnataka
18	M/s Jute Planet India	Howrah	West Bengal
19	M/s Astra Designs	Bangalore	Karnataka
20	M/s Jute Artisan Guild Association	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
21	Sangeetha Bag	Ernakulam	Kerala
22	M/s Snap Shoppee	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu

As per the guidelines of the scheme, the physical and financial target are fixed on annual basis. Hence, if a JRO which has performed well in previous year and apply for the next year too, it is counted as a new unit.”

142. In this context, the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in September, 2023 deposed as under:

“Sir, in JRO, the guideline says that we have to ensure that 50 per cent of JDPs which are sold by JROs are produced from the women self-help groups and jute

artisans. So, this data I suppose must be monitored as to how much of this sale which happens is out of how much is actually made by the women self-help group, so that a guideline is incorporated. We can provide this data also.”

143. The Committee were apprised that in JROs the guidelines provide that 50% of JDPs sold by JROs are produced from the women self help groups and jute artisans. When asked to provide data regarding the sale proceeds of JROs and out of which how much pertains to women self help groups, the Ministry stated as under.

“During 2021-22 and 2022-23, 13 Jute Retail Outlets are in operation. State wise numbers of Jute Retail Outlets are given below: -

State	Name / Place	Annual Sale 2022-23 (Rs in Lakh)	Own Source (%)	Sourcing from Other Registered Units. (No of units, sale proceeds &%)
Himanchal Pradesh	Sarkar Jute Craft, Manali	32.00	-	3 Units Rs 32 Lakh 100%
Jharkhand	Chhota Nagpur Craft Development Society, Ranchi	30.00	60%	4 Units Rs 12 Lakh 40%
Karnataka	Jute Cottage, Jayanagar, Bangalore	40.00	98%	2 Units Rs 0.80 Lakh 2%
	Jute Cottage, Halasuru, Bangalore	40.00	98%	2 Units Rs 0.80 Lakh 2%
	Jute Cottage, Indiranagar, Bangalore	40.00	98%	2 Units Rs 0.80 Lakh 2%
	Jute Cottage, Whitefield, Bangalore	32.00	98%	2 Units Rs 0.64 Lakh 2%
Maharashtra	Karaakruti, Pune	Claim not submitted	-	-
Tamil Nadu	Snap Jutes, Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu	16.00	-	3 Units Rs 16 Lakh 100%
Uttar Pradesh	Durga Trading Company, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	30.00	-	5 Units Rs 30 Lakh 100%
Uttarakhand	Bhartiya Gramotthan Sansthan, Dhalwala, Rishikesh	24.00	-	4 Units Rs 24 Lakh 100%
West Bengal	Gitali Jute Enterprise, Howrah	32.00	-	3 Units Rs 32 Lakh 100%
	Polempur Women Welfare	12.00	-	3 Units

	Society, Birbhum, West Bengal			Rs 12 Lakh 100%
	Rakshak Foundation, Alipore Road, Kolkata	Claim not submitted	-	-

As may be seen from above, the Retail Outlets ply with jute products being manufactured in own unit or sourced from existing MSME-JDP Units. The guidelines of sourcing 50% of JDPs sold by JROs from Women Self Help Group and jute artisans are yet to be implemented/followed.”

144. The Ministry subsequently informed that the total sale proceeds from JROs during 2021-22 and 2022-23 was Rs. 146 lakh, out of which Rs. 40 lakh (27%) of sale proceeds was from Women Self Help Groups. On being asked about the sale proceeds from Micro Level Artisans and Entrepreneurs out of Rs. 146 lakh, the Ministry stated as under:

“Total sales proceed Rs 146 lakh, of which Rs 40 lakh was of WSHGs. Remaining sale proceeds of Rs 106 lakh was micro level artisans and entrepreneurs.”

(v) Jute Design Resource Centre (JDRC)

Objective - Designing and development of Market worthy innovative Jute Diversified Products and helping existing and new JDP manufacturers and exporters.

Target set for five years: 1600 Designs of innovative lifestyle jute product to be developed. Total financial outlay Rs 5.80 crore.

145. The Committee were apprised that the Ministry are setting up Jute Design Resource Centres (JDRCs) by engagement of NIFT, Kolkata at the newly constructed Patsan Bhawan. When asked to indicate the target date by which the JDRCs will be set up and operationalized and whether the Ministry propose to set up similar Bhawans in other major States where jute crops cultivation is concentrated *viz.* in Assam and Bihar, the Ministry responded as under:

“NJB has had been in the process of procurement of machines through GeM. However, such machines are not available through GeM, hence, a Tender Committee has been constituted for procurement of machines following proper tender system. Procurement and installation of the machines would require 45-60 days. It is expected that JDRC would be set up and operationalized in Patsan Bhawan in January 2024. Presently, Ministry/NJB has no proposal to set up similar Bhawans in other major jute growing states including Assam and Bihar.”

(vi) Production Linked Incentive (PLI)

Objective - Jute Mills and MSME JDP units exporting JDPs to be supported for making them cost competitive in the international markets to help fetch export orders for JDPs.

- Support upto 5% of the cost of Jute Raw Material used for JDPs or 3% of the sales value of export by registered JDPs MSMEs,
 - Maximum of Rs. 12.00 Lakh per JDPs manufacturing unit per annum
- Target set for five years: 550 JDP manufacturing units are to be provided incentive. Total financial outlay Rs 66.00 crore.

Target and Achievement:

2021-22		2022-23	
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
100 JDP exporters to be incentivized for export value of Rs. 400 crore Rs. 12.00 crore financial outlay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No of applications / JDP exporters – 50/ Rs. 3.23 crore • Applications process settled – 35/Rs.3.18 crore • West Bengal- Kolkata Kerala-Alleppey, Cherthala Haryana- Panipat 	105 JDP exporters to be incentivized for export value of Rs. 420 crore Rs.12.60 crore financial outlay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 53 claims received/42 claims settled. • Rs.1.79 Crore released against export value of Rs. 100 crore.

146. With regard to PLI, the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in September, 2023 deposed as under:

“Since the jute diversified products are facing stiff competition especially from synthetic products which are low cost and because of the cash subsidies given by Bangladesh, therefore this scheme has been introduced with the incentive which is linked to the direct production cost such as raw material cost and the export output. In this, we can see that five per cent of the cost of raw jute material used is incentivized, limited to three per cent of the sales value of the exported JDPs. This is the guideline. About 103 JDP exporters have been benefited during 2021-22 and 2022-23.”

147. The Committee noted that 550 JDP manufacturing units would be provided incentive during 2021-22 to 2025-26 @ 3% of the export value or 5% of jute raw material cost, whichever is lower subject to maximum of Rs 12.00 Lakh per annum /unit for which total financial outlay is Rs 66.00 crore. When asked about the number of JDP manufacturing units provided incentive till date, the Ministry responded as under:

“During 2021-22 to 2023-24 (upto Oct 2023),total 103 JDP/exporter units have been provided incentive under PLI Scheme with the total expenditure of Rs. 8.14 crore.”

C) Market Development & Promotion Scheme (MDPS)

Objective - To support the JDP units for promotion and sale of JDPs, in the Domestic market and to registered jute exporters to boost export of jute goods. Development of Jute Mark Logo for Certification of Quality Jute Diversified products and Launching Publicity campaign to popularize Jute as Eco-friendly products in Domestic and international market.

Support provided for Domestic Marketing Promotion Activities –

- 100% free participation in events for promotion, sales for Jute Artisans, Entrepreneurs, WSHGs, Micro Units.
- 10% participation fee to Mills and Exporters.
- TA/DA to be given to women beneficiaries of Women Self Help Groups.

Support provided for International Export Promotion International Fair/BSM/Delegations abroad:

- 50% financial support (of Rs. 7.50 lakh) to established Jute Mills/big exporters of Traditional Jute Products.
- 75% financial support (of Rs. 7.50 lakh) to established Micro, Medium, big exporters/Mills exporting Jute Diversified Products (JDPs).
- 90% financial support (of Rs. 7.50 lakh) to New Exporters manufacturing Jute Diversified Products (JDPs).

Target set for five years: Increase domestic market for JDPs at CAGR of 10% to about 1.6 lakh M.Ton against the present level of 1.00 Lakh M.Ton.

Export target of Rs. 3800 crore at a CAGR of 10% against the present level of Jute Goods Export Rs 2400 crore.

Total financial outlay during 2021-22 to 2025-26 is Rs. 117.82 crore. (Domestic Market Promotion Activities is Rs 31.65crore. For Export Market Promotion Activities is Rs 51.77 crore, Jute Mark Logo is Rs 22.00 crore, Publicity and promotion is Rs 12.40 crore).

Target and Achievement:

2021-22		2022-23	
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Domestic Market Promotion Activities – 30	24 No Domestic Fairs/ 540 Jute Units Participated	Domestic Market Promotion Activities – 66	46 No Domestic Fairs
Export Market Promotion Activities – 09	02 International Fairs / 07 Registered Jute Exporters	Export Market	10 International Fairs

Development of Jute Mark Logo	Participated	Promotion Activities – 19	
Publicity/ Promotion	JMI Logo has been registered.	Development of Jute Mark Logo	Jute Mark India Logo unveiled on 9th July 2022.
Rs. 14.22 crore Financial Outlay	Copyright registration is under process.	Publicity/ Promotion	14 entities/vendors registered.
	JMI logo unveiled by Secretary Textiles on 9th July 22.		
	MoU between NJB & Textile Committee.	Rs. 25.90 crore Financial Outlay	Rs 14.38crore
	NJB Released Textile Committee Rs. 178.50 lakh for process development and testing distribution of JMI logo.		

148. When asked whether the persons trained under the Scheme are provided with intermediary-free marketing platform, the Ministry stated as under:

“NJB has been extending market promotion support to the new trainees – entrepreneurs by providing them free space/booth in Regional / Local level jute fairs / exhibitions. The new trainees participate directly or through their collaborating agencies in such fairs/exhibitions for promotion and sale of jute diversified products. Details of participation of some of the Collaborating Agencies / SHGs are given below :

(i) In the Jute Fair, Shillong organized by NJB during 22-26 June 2023, 02 SHGs (New Trainees under Pro-Rural JRCPC, Dimapur, Nagaland) participated for promotion and sale of Jute Diversified Products.

(ii) In IIMTF, Lucknow, participation organized by NJB during 8-18 April 2022, 01 Collaborating Agency (Jute Artisan Guild) participated for promotion and sale of Jute Diversified Products.

(iii) In IITF, New Delhi, participation organized by NJB during 14-27 Nov 2022, 02 Collaborating Agencies (Bhartiya Gramothan Sanstha, Rishikesh and Ashoka Handloom & Handicraft Society, Panipat) participated for promotion and sale of Jute Diversified Products.”

(i) Jute Mark Logo

149. The Committee desired to know the impact of Jute Mark Logo, which was launched on 9 July, 2022 for branding and positioning of

Indian Jute globally in domestic and international markets. In response, the Ministry stated as under:

“The Jute Mark Logo Scheme is being implemented through Textile Committee. Total number of 55 vendors/units are registered till end Oct 2023.

The Jute Mark India registration authenticates the product being manufactured are of pure jute and jute blended products of Indian origin. Impact assessment of Jute Mark Logo will be done in year 2024-25 alongwith other schemes of NJDP.”

150. When asked about the effect of ban on single use plastic on demand of Jute products, whether the Ministry has been able to meet the demand and the steps taken/being taken in this regard, the Ministry responded as under:

“National Jute Board (NJB) being promotional body under Ministry of Textiles has been taking all possible measures for creating awareness on usage of jute eco friendly product including jute bags.

In view menace and restriction imposed/ban on single use plastic, NJB has continued to implement the following promotional measures for popularization of jute bags to replace plastic bags : -

- (i) Imparting training on manufacturing Low cost jute bags through Collaborating Agencies to build sound supply chain.
- (ii) Facilitating the existing / new jute entrepreneurs for production of light weight low cost jute carry bags for mass consumption.
- (iii) Organizing outreach programmes for increasing awareness on usage of jute bags in place of plastic.
- (iv) Publicity Campaign on use of eco friendly jute bags “Bring your own bag”.

(ii) Fairs/Exhibitions

151. The Committee were apprised that for facilitating participation of Jute Artisans, WSHGs, MSMEs and Mills in Exhibitions and fairs for direct sales and promotion of JDPs in domestic and international markets, during 21-22 to 2022-23 about 66 Fairs/Exhibitions were organized and 1,300 Units/Beneficiaries were supported. When asked to provide State/District-wise details of exhibitions/fairs held as well the number of beneficiaries, the Ministry responded as under:

“During 2021-22, NJB organized participation in 24 jute exhibitions / fairs in 9 states facilitating participation of 564 jute units/beneficiaries. During 2022-23, participation in 42 jute exhibitions/fairs in 16 states

were organized facilitating participation of 736 jute units / beneficiaries. State/district wise details of exhibitions/fairs participated by NJB with number of jute entrepreneurs beneficiaries are as under.

**PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED/
PARTICIPATED DURING 2021-22**

Ser No	Name of Fair	State	District	Duration	No of Participants
Bihar					
1.	IIMTF, Patna	Bihar	Patna	8-17 Oct 21	28
Chhatishgarh					
2.	Jute Fair	Chhatishgarh	Raipur	5-13 Mar 21	25
Haryana					
3.	Surajkund International Craft Mela	Haryana	Faridabad	19 Mar – 4 Apr 22	48
Himachal Pradesh					
4.	SITEX-2021	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	16-20 Sep 21	22
5.	Jute Fair	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	21-27 Mar 22	23
Karnataka					
6.	Jute Fair	Karnataka	Mangalore	5-10 th Mar 21	21
New Delhi					
7.	IITF-2021	New Delhi	New Delhi	14-27 Nov 21	87
Punjab					
8.	Jute Fair	Punjab	Chandigarh	23 Feb – 1 Mar 21	24
9.	Gandhi Shilp Bazar	Punjab	Dehradun	17-26 Dec 21	24
Rajasthan					
10.	PITEX-2021	Rajasthan	Amritsar	2-16 Dec 21	23
11.	Shilpgram Utsav	Rajasthan	Udaipur	21-30 Dec 21	25
Telangana					
12.	All India Craft Mela	Telangana	Hyderabad	15-31 Dec 21	38
13.	Saras Fair	Telangana	Hyderabad	20 Dec 21-3 Jan 22	04
Uttar Pradesh					
14.	Jute Expo Grand State Mela, 2021	Uttar Pradesh	Banda	13-17 Dec 21	11
15.	IIMTF-Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	22-31 Oct 21	13
16.	Taj Mahotsav	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	20-29 Mar 22	14
West Bengal					
17.	Jute Fair CC-2	West Bengal	New Town	7-15 Aug 21	16
18.	Jute Fair CC-Siliguri	West Bengal	Siliguri	28 Aug-5 Sep 21	23
19.	Jute Fair, CC-1	West Bengal	Salt Lake	2-10 Oct 21	20
20.	Diwali Mela	West Bengal	Fort William Stadium	2-4 Nov 21	10
21.	Jute Fair, CC-Haldia	West Bengal	Haldia	4-12 Dec 21	30
22.	IIMTF, Kolkata	West Bengal	Kolkata	17 Dec 21 – 2 Jan 22	14
23.	India Story & Wedding Diaries	West Bengal	Swabhumi	18-20 Dec 21	03
24.	Book Fair	West Bengal	Kolkata	28 Feb – 13 Mar 21	18

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED/PARTICIPATED DURING 2022-23

Ser No	Name of Fair	State	District	Duration	No of Participants
Assam					
1.	NEIFT	Assam	Guwahati	4-5 Sep 2022	1
Bihar					
2.	Patna International Trade Fair	Bihar	Patna	12-21 Aug 2022	17
Haryana					
3.	Aspiring Haryana	Haryana	Hisar	28-30 Jul 2022	5
Himachal Pradesh					
4.	Jute Fair 2022	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	27- May to 05 Jun 2022	25
5.	Jute Fair-2022	Himachal Pradesh	Manali	10-16 Jun 2022	30
6.	Jute Fair-2022 (Exhibition Cum Sale)	Himachal Pradesh	Manali	19-25 Dec 2022	35
Kerala					
7.	Jute Fair	Kerala	Trivandrum	20-24 Jun 2022	30
Madhya Pradesh					
8.	Handicraft Exhibition Fair, Malwa Utsav 2022	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	25-31 May 2022	12
Maharashtra					
9.	Expo Asia Exhibition,	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Jun 2022	15
10.	IIMTF at MMRDA Grounds Bandra-Kurla Complex	Maharashtra	Mumbai	07 to 17 Oct 2022	6
11.	HGH, India	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Jul 2022	4
Meghalaya					
12.	NEIFT	Meghalaya	Shillong	12-14 Oct 2022	1
New Delhi					
13.	IITF-2022 at Pragati Maidan	New Delhi	New Delhi	14-27 Nov 2022	80
14.	Handloom & Handicraft Mela	New Delhi	New Delhi	11-25 Sep 2022	15
15.	IIMTF at NSIC Exhibition Complex Okhla Indl Estate	New Delhi	New Delhi	19-29 Aug 2022	15
Odisha					
16.	Folk Fair 2022	Odisha	Puri	20-24 Jun 2022	12
Punjab					
17.	CII Chandigarh Fair-2022	Punjab	Chandigarh	14-17 Oct 2022	23
18.	Punjab International Trade Expo-2022	Punjab	Amritsar	8-12 Dec 2022	22
Rajasthan					
19.	IIMTF	Rajasthan	Jaipur	22 Apr to 01 May 2022	17
20.	Shilpagram Utsav-2022	Rajasthan	Udaipur	21-30 Dec 2022	29
21.	Pachimi Rajasthan Udyog Hastshilp Utsav-2023	Rajasthan	Jaipur	6-16 Jan 2023	21

Ser No	Name of Fair	State	District	Duration	No of Participants
Tamil Nadu					
22.	National Handloom Expo	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	08 Apr - 01 May 2022	15
23.	Smart Shoppers Expo	Tamil Nadu	Madurai	Aug 2022	16
24.	Jute Fair	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	21 to 27 Sep 2022	27
Telangana					
25.	Golkunda Craft Bazar	Telangana	Golkunda, Hyderabad	15th -24th Apr 2022	20
26.	NI-MSME Diamond Jubilee Exhibition	Telangana	Hyderabad	29-30 Aug 2022	5
Uttar Pradesh					
27.	IIMTF	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	8-18 Apr 2022	15
28.	Jute Expo Grand (State) Mela-2022	Uttar Pradesh	Bundelkhand	13-17 Dec 2022	18
29.	Taj Mahotsav-2023	Uttar Pradesh	Agra (UP)	20 Feb - 01 Mar 2023	20
West Bengal					
30.	Jute Fair, Alen Park	West Bengal	Kolkata	21-24 Jun 2022	14
31.	Jute Fair	West Bengal	Siliguri	Jun 2022	20
32.	Jute Fair, Bengal Club	West Bengal	Kolkata	03-05 Jun 2022	10
33.	Ek Jute India, Acropolis Mall	West Bengal	Kolkata	03 - 05 Jun 2022	5
34.	Jute Fair	West Bengal	Haldia	6-14 Aug 2022	28
35.	Diwali Mela, Fort William	West Bengal	Kolkata	Nov 2022	10
36.	Wedding Diaries	West Bengal	Kolkata	Jul 2022	5
37.	Jute Fair, CC-1	West Bengal	Kolkata	17-25 Sep 2022	19
38.	Jute Fair	West Bengal	Kolkata	15 - 18 Aug 2022	10
39.	Jute Fair, National Library	West Bengal	Kolkata	Jul 2022	30
40.	9 th Indian National Exhibition-cum-Fair	West Bengal	Kolkata	4-8 Aug 2022	7
41.	25 th National Textile Exhibition, Central Park	West Bengal	Kolkata	24 - 27 Aug 2022	6
42.	Famous Durga Puja Pandals	West Bengal	Kolkata	29 Sep - 05 Oct 2022	25

D) Scholarship Scheme for Girl Children of Workers of Jute Mills/MSME JDP unit

Objective - Support to the Jute Workers girl children and family for providing higher education to the girl children and Improvement in the education standard.

- Scholarship @ Rs 5,000/- for Secondary Exam Pass outs and
- Scholarship @ Rs 10,000/- for Higher Secondary Pass outs.

Target set for five years: 10th Pass out Girl Children: 15000 and 12th Pass out Girl Children: 7500 (Total 22,500). Total financial outlay for Scholarship Scheme: Rs 15.00 crore.

Target and Achievement:

2021-22		2022-23	
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
➤ 4,500 Girl Children	• No of girl children benefitted - 4404/Rs 3.16 crore	➤ 4,500 Girl Children	• 3,768 Girl Children
➤ Rs 3.00 crore - Financial Outlay	• Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Kerala	➤ Rs 3.00 crore - Financial Outlay	• Rs2.68 crore

152. When specifically asked about target fixed under this Scheme, the Ministry responded as under:

“The target to provide scholarships to Girl Children of the workers of the Jute Mills and MSME JDP units is fixed for every year. Details of targets set under Scholarship Scheme are given below:

Year	10 th Pass Outs		12 th Pass Outs		Total	
	Physical (Nos Children)	Financial Girl (Rs in Lakh)	Physical (Nos Children)	Financial Girl (Rs in Lakh)	Physical (Nos Children)	Financial Girl (Rs in Lakh)
2021-22	3000	150.00	1500	150.00	4500	300.00
2022-23	3000	150.00	1500	150.00	4500	300.00
2023-24	3000	150.00	1500	150.00	4500	300.00
2024-25	3000	150.00	1500	150.00	4500	300.00
2025-26	3000	150.00	1500	150.00	4500	300.00
Total	15000	750.00	7500	750.00	22500	1500.00

153. On being asked to provide State-wise details of beneficiaries covered during 2022-23 and the reasons for not covering all beneficiaries, the Ministry responded as under:

“During 2022-23, Target was 4500 girl children. However number of applications received from girl children was 3812.State wise details of girl children benefited are furnished below:

Sl. No	State	No. of Jute Mills/MSME JDP Units	No of Girl Children
1.	West Bengal	41 Jute Mills + 5MSME JDP Units	3797
2.	Assam	01 Jute Mill	08
3.	Kerala	01 MSME JDP Unit	07
Total		48 (42 Jute Mills + 6MSME JDP Units)	3812

During 2022-23, number of applications received from girl children was 3812. This is less by 688 girl children as compared to the target set. The reason for less number of girl children participation under the scholarship scheme is attributable to less number of girl children passed in Secondary/Higher Secondary Examinations as compared to 2021-22. The observation of the Hon’ble Committee has been sincerely noted. NJB would organize awareness creation programme amongst Jute Mill Workers to ensure larger participation of girl children.”

154. When asked about the basis on which the target was fixed, availability of data-base of girl children studying in various classes, coordination with District Administration, the monitoring mechanism in place and whether any Nodal Officer has been appointed for the purpose, the Ministry stated as under:

“The scholarship scheme for the girl children has been implemented by NJB since 2014-15. On an average, there were 3600 girl children participated and Rs. 2.60 crore was incurred annually under the scheme for providing scholarship. Keeping in view previous years’ data, NJB has kept 20% increase in annual target for scholarship scheme under NJDP which is 4500 girl children and Rs. 3.00 crore. Accordingly, cumulative total of 22,500 girl children for 2021-22 to 2025-26 (5 years) has been indicated with total provision of financial outlay Rs. 15.00 crore. NJB being the implementing agency, has been interacting with the jute mill workers / management (mill units + MSME JDP units) inviting participation of girl children in the scholarship scheme. This has also been continuously followed up with Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) and Jute Products Development& Export Promotion Council (JPDEPC). On the basis of applications received from girl children through IJMA and JPDEPC, NJB processed the application for scholarship payment according to scheme guidelines.

Hence, NJB does not intervene directly to receive applications of girl children for scholarships. As per scheme guidelines, the applicant – girl children obtain endorsement of concerned Head of the School / institution certifying passing out in the examinations. For implementation of the scholarship scheme, from NJB an officer at the level of Assistant Director has been appointed as Nodal officer.”

155. It was noticed that 3812 beneficiaries covered during 2022-23 belonged to 42 Jute Mills and 6MSME JDP Units in three States viz. West Bengal, Assam and Kerala despite the fact that there are 108 Jute Mills in 08 States. When asked about the reasons for there being no beneficiary from the remaining 5 States, the Ministry responded as under:

“NJB has been circulating the scholarship scheme guidelines among the jute mills endorsing copy of the circular to IJMA, JPDEPC, Jute Shippers Council Cherthala and

regional office/s of NJB. During 2022-23, applications from 03 states were received. Applications from remaining 5 states were not received due to non - response from the jute mills.”

156. When asked about the measures adopted for creating awareness amongst jute workers regarding the Scheme and the number of awareness campaigns launched during the last three years, the Ministry responded as under:

“NJB organized awareness programme (Stakeholders Meeting) with the representative of the Jute Mills and MSME-JDP Units on approved Schemes / Activities including Scholarship Scheme being implemented by NJB and inviting participation of the Jute Units in large scale. NJB also through direct communication with the Jute Mills, Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) and Jute Product Development & Export Promotion Council (JPDEPC) invites applications from the eligible girl children under scholarship scheme. This has also been continuously followed up with Jute Mills, IJMA and JPDEPC for submission of applications. Besides, during the Swachhata Campaign in Jute Mills, the HRD Executives of the Jute Mills are apprised regarding the Scholarship Scheme. Further, during participation in various Regional / National level fairs, the local MSME-JDP Units and the participating units are apprised regarding ongoing scholarship scheme.”

157. With regard to the efforts being made to increase the enrolment of more girl children under this Scheme specially in the rural and backward areas, the Ministry stated as under:

“NJB has been organizing participation in Jute Fairs / Exhibitions in rural and backward areas facilitating participation of local jute units/WSHG for promotion and sale of jute diversified products. The local jute units/WSHG are provided with full brief regarding the ongoing schemes including scholarship schemes for girl children.”

158. The Committee further desired to know about the steps taken to increase the awareness of the scheme for the benefit of eligible candidates, In response, the Ministry stated as under:

“NJB has been organizing awareness programs / stakeholders meetings with active participation of representatives of jute mills / MSME- JDP units to give wide publicity on ongoing schemes and to ensure greater participation. Further NJB has been planning to make direct contact with jute mill authorities involving District Administration in the process to ensure more participation of girl children in the scholarship scheme.”

159. On being asked about steps being undertaken to ensure that all eligible girl children are covered during the Scheme period, the Ministry stated as under:

“On receipt of application from jute mills, necessary scrutiny is carried out by IJMA and JPDEPC and forwarded to NJB for necessary action. NJB process the mill-wise applications and ensure that all eligible girl children are covered during the scheme period as per the approved scheme guidelines.”

160. In this context, the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in November, 2023 deposed as under:

“The mechanism is that the mill owners provide this data because these are the mill workers’ daughters and wives/family who are covered in this. So, they provide us data, and then we process the applications at the NJP level. Since it is a need-based scheme, we were relying on their applications. But we will be more proactive now, and we will try and see that we reach to each jute mill. Even those mills from where applications have not been received, NJB will focus on those mills and cover all the girl children to a large extent. We have noted down the observations as well.”

161. The representative further supplemented as under:

“Sir, associations, like IJMA, are the nodal associations with whom NJB works and they are the ones which provide this data because mills are concentrated in some areas. So, we get these applications and this information from the jute mill associations and the mill owners individually as well. Then, we try and process the applications. The workers are those who are working with them. Hence, we reach out to the associations.”

“...But there is clearly a need for greater work in the field. Presently, we are working with IJMA very closely, especially on the welfare related aspects of workers. The number of districts where jute mills are limited, we will make a direct engagement with the district education authorities to get a better sense of the numbers of girl students who are daughters of jute workers. So, we will have a better idea of data. We can also think of having some kind of a camp approach to this. We will try to generate better awareness about the better welfare measures that we have and thereby encourage workers to give their application. So, I can assure you that we will take necessary action in that regard.”

xxxx

“Regarding the awareness and a camp-approach, xxxx, we will specifically have a calendar of events. We will ask NJB to prepare this calendar and as per this calendar, these events will take place, and it will become a regular feature. So, as Secretary Madam has suggested, a camp-approach based on calendar of such camps and events, I think we will work towards this, so that there is better awareness, not just for scholarship, but also for production, productivity, identifying progressive farmers, giving them that due recognition. This will be definitely done as a regular part of our awareness and publicity campaign.”

162. In response to a specific query whether there is any proposal to provide scholarship to girl children at various levels in addition to the present Scheme, which is applicable on passing out Secondary/Higher Secondary Examination, the Ministry stated as under:

“As approved in the 29th Board Meeting of NJB, besides Secondary / Higher Secondary examinations, there is proposal to provide scholarship to girl children passing of graduation level. The proposal is under active consideration of Ministry.”

E. Challenges faced

163. On specifically asked about the challenges being faced by the different Offices/Board/NJDP while implementing different schemes/programmes, the Ministry responded as under:

“Various Schemes relating to jute agriculture, jute diversification, Market Development & Promotion and Workers Welfare measures are being implemented under National Jute Development Programme (NJDP) during 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Schemes are implemented following the approved operational guidelines. However, some modifications in the operational guidelines are proposed to make the implementation simple and user friendly and to cover more beneficiaries in the jute sector.”

164. The Committee noted that (i) more than 80% of Raw Jute grown is TDN-3 & below i.e., average or poor quality; (ii) due to alternate higher yielding options like real estate etc., area under jute cultivation is shrinking; (iii) dedicated R&D is needed to develop alternate JDPs; (iv) host of low-cost alternate synthetic products are posing great challenge in promotion and penetration of JDPs into day-to-day household segment; and (v) competing countries are extending export subsidies upto 20% on export of Jute Products, posing a big threat to our export growth. When asked about the concrete measures taken or proposed to be taken to overcome these challenges, the Ministry stated as under:

“The National Jute Development Programme – An umbrella Scheme for development and promotion of Jute sector addresses all these challenges. Given below are the specific scheme/ programme being implemented by National Jute Board (NJB):

Challenges	Schemes Under Implementation
Average or Poor quality of Raw Jute	Jute ICARE – for improving quality and productivity of raw jute cultivation.
Shrinking Jute Cultivation	Awareness Programmes among Jute Farmers, distribution of jute certified seeds, demonstration of modern agronomic practices, Retting accelerators for improvement of jute quality.
Dedicated R&D to develop JDPs	Product diversification (R&D Studies) to explore

	the possibilities of jute in both textile and non textile applications.
Low Cost Alternate Synthetic Products	Production of low cost jute bags, Awareness programmes on usage of Eco friendly jute products, launching publicity campaign “Stop Use Plastic, Use Eco-friendly Jute Bag” associating environmental groups/NGOs in publicity campaign, Display & promotion through Jute Retail Outlets and Jute Fairs/ Exhibitions with active participation of jute artisans/ entrepreneurs.
Export Subsidies upto 20% on export of jute products by competing countries–posing big threat to our export growth	The Market Development and Promotion Scheme facilitates the registered jute exporters : Participation in International Events under Export Market Promotion Assistance Scheme (Assistance @ 90%/75%/50% of total expenditure Rs 7.50 Lakh), incentive under Production Linked Incentive Scheme @ 3% of FOB value of JDP exported or 5% of Jute Raw Material used whichever is less subject to max of Rs 12 Lakh per unit per annum.

165. When asked to provide details of projects being undertaken for Product Diversification (R&D Studies) to explore the possibilities of Jute in both the Textile and Non-Textile applications including Budgetary allocations/ utilization, the Ministry responded as under:

“ Details of the projects under Product Diversification are given below:

Sl. No.	Project Executing Agency (Institute)	Details of Projects	Duration	Commencement	Project Cost (Rs.)	Total Utilization till Oct 2023 (Rs.)
1	Northern India Textile Research Association	Development of Jute Composite for automotive acoustic insulation & other uses	2 Year	25.11.2021	56,21,000	33,72,600
2	Northern India Textile Research Association	Development of a molten metal splash resistance unique jute blended work wear for Steel foundry workers	2 Year	25.11.2021	43,34,000	26,00,400
3	National Institute of Technology Durgapur	Nano-technological intervention on jute-geotextile to adapt long term sustainability and enhanced durability for its cost-effective and wide application in flexible pavement systems	3 Year	14.12.2021	69,52,264	41,71,358

4	National Institute of Technology Durgapur	Development of guidelines to adopt the process of height increment of overburden dumps at open cast coal mines in India using jute-geotextile as reinforcing material	3 Year	14.12.2021	71,72,264	43,03,358
5	Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association	Development of Jute Composite for application in Prosthetic Leg	2 Year	25.03.2022	39,74,344	23,84,606
6	ICAR-National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology	Development of bio-degradable packaging boxes from jute stick and jute pulp for Agri-horticultural products	2 Year	04.04.2022	30,00,000	18,00,000
7	Wool Research Association	Development of Cost Effective Handmade Carpets & Floor Coverings, Home Furnishings & Knitwears using Jute (Treated Woolenised or Untreated) & other natural fibres with value added Eco Friendly Finishes such as with Flame Retardancy, Mosquito Repellent, Anti-Bacterial/Antimicrobial Properties etc.	30 Months	04.04.2022	62,70,000	37,62,000
8	Government College of Engineering and Textile Technology	Development of jute based composite for non-structural applications	2 Year	04.04.2022	28,60,000	22,88,000
9	Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute	Production of Pilot Scale Whole Jute Dissolving Pulp for Viscose Fibre	18 Months	13.06.2022	14,75,000	7,37,500
10	Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association	Hybrid Jute Composite Modification and Subsequent Development of Porta Cabin	19 Months	30.05.2022	37,76,784	3,02,1427
11	Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar	Mechanistic-Empirical Design of Jute Geotextile Reinforcement Pavements for Rural Roads	3 Year	09.03.2023	62,71,000	25,08,400
12	National Institute of Technology Karnataka Surathkal	Technology Development and Engineering Performance Evaluation of Jute Geocells for Slope Stabilization and	3 Year	09.03.2023	47,98,052	14,39,415

		Pavement Applications				
13	ICAR-National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology	Development of modern mini-spinning machinery for processing of jute and allied fibres for small industries	3 Year	27.06.2023	82,50,000	24,75,000
14	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	Evaluation for Filtration Characteristics of Jute Geotextiles	1 Year	28.07.2023	22,10,032	8,84,012
15	Indian Jute Industries Research Association	Exploration of usage of Engineered Jute and Agro-waste based Agrotexiles for Improving Farmers' Income on their Produce	2 Year	19.09.2023	72,58,000	21,77,400
16	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	Application of Jute Geotextiles in Reinforcing the Retaining Walls for Static and Seismic Stability	2 Year	16.11.2023	50,45,480	15,13,644*
17	Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati	Development of Jute Clay Liners (JCL) for Waste Containment Applications	18 Months	16.11.2023	22,28,300	6,68,490*

* As per MoA, 1st instalment (30%) released in October 2023

XVI. ALLIED FIBRE/FLAX FIBRE

166. The Ministry were asked to furnish a detailed background note on flax plant/ linen fabric *inter-alia* indicating the places where flax plant is cultivated, the number of farmers involved, the demand and supply of linen fabric in the country/abroad, research undertaken/proposed to be undertaken on flax seeds, etc. In response, the Ministry furnished the following details:

“Flax fibre is strong, non lignified, soft, flexible, signing, pale yellow colour and possesses high water absorbency quality. It is valued for strength and durability excelling cotton and stronger than cotton, rayon and wool in India. Flex is commonly known as ALSI, TISI, AVISE, JAWAS, AGASI, PESI, etc.

Flax is also called Linen. The fibre is obtained from the stalk of a plant which is from 80 to 120 cm high, with few branches and small flowers, of a color that varies from white to intense blue, which flowers only for one day.

Flax has wide use in the textile sector for its higher strength and luster. Flax is woven into fine fabrics such as lawns, cambrics and drills, canvas, and buckrams. It is used in liner-stitching, making

twines and nets for fishing ropes, carpet-backing, sail, wrapping cloth and house furnishings. It is a good raw material for tissue paper, fire-fighting hosepipes, knapsacks and water bags. Flax is also a suitable alternative to woody species as raw material for paper and pulp production as flax contains 70-80% α-cellulose. It is also highly suitable for the production of bio-composites which can be extensively used in the automobile and aviation industry and also as raw material for - construction jobs, furniture making, machine construction, insulating materials, gardening and agricultural equipment, etc. It can also be successfully used in the non-woven sector for making geo-textiles.

At present, the domestic production of quality flax fibre suitable for the apparel sector is almost negligible. Therefore, to meet the domestic demand of flax fibre and/or fabric (linen), the manufacturers of linen fabrics have to import the flax fibre/fabrics from countries like Belgium, France, China, Netherlands, etc. India spends more than Rs. 800 Cr. annually for import of flax fibre from China, Canada, Belgium, Holland and France to meet indigenous demand.

- **Potential area of cultivation in India:** Foot hills and intermediate hills of Himalayan region (Uttarakhand, UP, North Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya), Nilgiri hills of Tamil Nadu would be ideal areas for flax cultivation.

- **Market potential:** In 2020 India exported \$3.54M processed Flax Fibres mainly to Bangladesh, Lithuania, Belgium, Indonesia and China, and in the same FY imported \$47.7M worth Flax mainly from Belgium, France, Lithuania, Belarus and Egypt.

Current issues requiring intervention - India does not have significant presence among the flax fibre producing countries. India is importing flax fibre to meet the domestic demand for flax. This demand could be fulfilled by domestic supply as India has good supply of linseed to produce flax fibre domestically.”

167. The Committee were apprised that the domestic production of quality flax fibre suitable for the apparel sector is almost negligible. The Committee were also informed that potential areas for flax cultivation in India are foot hills and intermediate hills of Himalayan region (Uttarakhand, UP, North Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya), Nilgiri hills of Tamil Nadu. When asked about the plan of action for flax cultivation in these areas so as to meet the domestic demand for flax and also reduce imports, the Ministry responded as under:

“Earlier on the direction of Ministry of Textiles, Office of Jute Commissioner had constituted a Committee to analysis of Allied fibre including Flax and the importance of incorporating them in the mandate of National Jute Board. The Committee found that at present, the domestic production of quality flax fibre suitable for the apparel sector is almost negligible and to meet the domestic demand, India imports flax of Rs. 800 crore (approx.). India has potential to cultivate flax to meet its domestic demand. However, there is need of a detailed study for analyzing this sector. Further, intervention in the cultivation of fibre may be taken up with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare as the matter is under its purview.”

168. With regard to the scope for development of allied fibre, the Ministry further stated as under:

“...., the Ministry had constituted a Committee under the Chairpersonship of Deputy Jute Commissioner in 2022 to analysis the importance of Allied fibre for incorporating them in the mandate of National Jute Board Act, 2008. The mandate of NJB Act, 2008 is connected with the development of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of jute and jute products and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The Committee discussed the subject in its meeting held on 09.09.2022 with the representatives of NITRA, ICARE-NINFET, ICAR-CRIJAF, IJIRA, NJB, JCI and O/o JC. The Committee considered the matter on the following allied fibres: Sunhemp, Ramie, Sisal, Flax, Banana Fibre, Pineapple Fibre, Hemp Fibre and Nettle Fibre and submitted its report. However, it could not furnish its clear cut any recommendation on the way out for incorporation of Allied Fibre in the NJB Act with the mandate of Jute.

A brief of report of the said Committee is as under:

“SUNHEMP

a. Economic Importance :Sunhemp is a multipurpose leguminous crop. It is ideal for making specialty paper, ropes, twines, fishing net, canvas etc. It is also used for making camouflaging net by army for defence purposes.

b. Gap Analysis :Information on exact quantity and value of sunhemp fibre imported in India is not available, neither there is any authentic information on the volume of domestic manufacturing of sunhemp products.

c. Potential area of cultivation in India: This crop can be grown in the states of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharastra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Rajasthan, and West Bengal mainly for fibre.

d. Market potential: The current increasing trend of global market for fibre-based diversified products, the growth of sunhemp fibre demand

in the international market is inevitable. This fibre has a very good potential to be used in Agrotech and Geotech.

e. Issues related to technology, R&D, storage etc. There is an urgent need for raw material assessment and skill development in hemp producing regions. Standardization of cultivation, fibre extraction, spinning and weaving practices should be conducted to achieve better yield, quality and realization.

RAMIE

a. Economic Importance - Ramie fibre is highly suitable for textile purpose primarily because of its lustre, strength, durability, absorbance and also because of its ability to blend with other natural and synthetic fibres. Considering the beneficial properties of ramie, it can be effectively utilized for blending with jute yarn for production of quality high value jute diversified products (JDPs).

b. Gap Analysis: Information on exact quantity and values of ramie fibre import by India is not readily available.

c. Potential area of cultivation in India: Ramie can be successfully grown in the north-eastern India especially in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and northern Bengal.

d. Market potential: Ramie fibre is mainly used to produce sewing thread, packing materials, fishing nets, and filter cloths but after refining fibre properties and blending with other natural fibres, it is used to produce fabric for suiting, home furnishings, sarees and other dress materials.

e. Issues related to technology, R&D, storage etc. There is an urgent need for raw material assessment and skill development in de-gumming of ramie. Standardization of cultivation, fibre extraction & degumming, spinning and weaving practices should be conducted to achieve better yield, quality and realization.

SISAL

a. Economic Importance - India is the 2nd largest importer and 5th largest exporter of sisal in the world. Sisal fibre is very commonly used in the shipping industry for mooring small craft, lashing, and handling cargo including geotextiles.

b. Gap Analysis: India imports it worth Rs. 2.5 crores from Tanzania, Kenya and other sisal producing countries. India exports sisal ropes and twine made out of imported sisal, to several countries in the world.

c. Potential area of cultivation in India: Sisal can be successfully grown in arid and semi-arid regions of India including Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Telengana, Maharashtra and some parts of West Bengal.

d. Market potential: In recent times has been found to be used for making specialty paper, filters, geo-textiles, mattresses, carpets and wall coverings and as reinforcement in plastic composite materials and furniture.

e. Issues related to technology, R&D, storage etc. More research and development activity needs to be undertaken to design new products that can meet the competition put up by products made from synthetic substitutes.

FLAX

a. Economic Importance – Flax is used in liner-stitching, making twines and nets for fishing ropes, carpet-backing, sail, wrapping cloth and house furnishings. It is also highly suitable for the production of bio-composites which can be extensively used in the automobile and aviation industry and also as raw material for – construction jobs, furniture making, machine construction, insulating materials, gardening and agricultural equipment, etc. It can also be successfully used in the non-woven sector for making geo-textiles.

b. Gap Analysis: At present, the domestic production of quality flax fibre suitable for the apparel sector is almost negligible. Therefore, to meet the domestic demand it is imported from countries like Belgium, France, China, Netherlands, etc. India spends more than Rs. 800 Cr. annually for import.

c. Potential area of cultivation in India: Foot hills and intermediate hills of Himalayan region (Uttarakhand, UP, North Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya), Nilgiri hills of Tamil Nadu would be ideal areas for flax cultivation.

d. Market potential: In 2020 India exported USD 3.54 million processed Flax Fibres mainly to Bangladesh, Lithuania, Belgium, Indonesia and China, and in the same FY imported USD 47.7M worth Flax mainly from Belgium, France, Lithuania, Belarus and Egypt.

e. Current issues requiring intervention - India has good variety and agro-technology to produce flax fibre domestically.

BANANA Fibre

Application of banana fibre for manufacturing textiles is a new concept in India. Banana fibre can be easily blended with cotton or other synthetic fibres to produce blended fabric and textiles. Currently, it is mainly used by cottage industry in Southern India. Banana fibre has the potential to partially replace the consumption of cotton and jute fibre in India. Banana fibre also finds use in high quality security/ currency paper, packing cloth for agriculture produce, ships towing ropes, wet drilling cables and others.

PINEAPPLE Fibre

Pineapple fibre is used for making cloth and is also at times combined with silk or polyester to create textile fabrics. Pineapple fibre is also used for table linens, bags, mats and other clothing items. It finds different uses across the various parts of the world. There is huge potential for pineapple fabric, given its diverse uses and eco-friendly properties.

HEMP Fibre

Almost all parts of the hemp plants are useful. It has a wide range of application in Meditech in the form of fabric as well as fibre. In sports wears also the hemp fabrics have large scope due to its inherent antimicrobial properties. Global production of hemp is estimated to be around 0.1 million MT (per year average over the recent years). Europe and China are the major hemp producing regions in the world. In India hemp is primarily cultivated in a scattered manner only in some districts in Uttarakhand, Kashmir and Travancore.

NETTLE Fibre

Himalayan Nettle is considered finer, stronger, and more elastic than linen. This new trend to use the Nettle fiber for textile purpose has been driven by concern over the environmental damage caused by the processing of synthetic fibers and fabrics.”

169. The Ministry further stated as under:

“The Report of the Committee is general in nature. The Committee has not stated any specific view on the scope of Allied Fibre in Indian Industry. It has neither recommended how to the Govt. may intervene in the sector nor furnished detailed data on above Allied Fibres for incorporation them with Jute in the mandate of National Jute Board. Therefore, there is a need for detailed study for analyzing this sector. Further, intervention in the cultivation of Allied fibre may be taken up with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare as the matter is under its purview.

.... at present the National Jute Board is dealing with meager Manpower for development of jute sector. Hence, addition of Allied Fibre in the mandate of NJB will require extra manpower/technical experts through increasing sanctioned strength of NJB. Therefore, at this juncture, the incorporation of Allied Fibre with Jute may be explored with stakeholder consultation with respective ministries such as MoA&FW, DoPT etc.”

XVII. NATIONAL JUTE POLICY

170. When specifically asked whether the Ministry propose to formulate a National Jute Policy for development and promotion of Jute Sector and whether State Governments have formulated their own Policy in this regard, the Ministry responded as under:

“National Jute Policy for development and promotion of jute sector was declared in 2005. New Jute Policy has been included in the draft National Textile Policy which is under consideration of Ministry.”

XVIII. IMPACT OF COVID PANDEMIC

171. With regard to the performance of jute industry during the last four years especially during Covid Pandemic, the Ministry stated as under:

“Performance of Jute Industry during 2019-20 to 2022-23:

Production of Raw Jute

Year	Production of Raw Jute (000 Bales)
2019-20	9445.8
2020-21	8952.6
2021-22*	9908.1
2022-23*	9664.3

(*) First Advance Estimates for 2022-23.

(*) Fourth Advance Estimates for 2021-22.

Source : DES, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Production of Jute Goods

Year	Production of Jute Goods (000 M.Ton)
2019-20	1165.1
2020-21*	962.8
2021-22	1080.0
2022-23	1246.5

* Due to the Lockdown, all Jute Mills across the country were closed w.e.f 25th March 2020.

Exports of Jute Goods

Year	Exports of Jute Goods	
	Qty (000 M.Ton)	Value (Rs in Crore)
2019-20	113.70	2423.84
2020-21	102.80	2740.46
2021-22	161.60	3785.86
2022-23 (Provn)	153.31	3510.60

Source: DGCI&S

XIX. AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

172. When asked about the steps being taken to create awareness among the farmers and to attract them towards jute cropping, the Ministry stated as under:

“The Govt has been revising the MSP rates every year to ensure that Jute crop remains an attractive option. JCI conducts awareness programs through multiple means viz. Press conference, press release, advertisements in daily as local vernacular, loud speaker announcements& leaflet distribution in the Jute growing areas. Awareness camps are also conducted under Project I-CARE through which Advance Agronomic practice are disseminated to the farmers and Jute advisories are also issued from time to time through ICAR CRIJAF.”

173. When further enquired whether any proposal is under consideration of the Ministry to directly interact with Jute workers and Jute farmers by launching awareness campaigns/workshops through District Administration and also involving public representatives and the steps taken to spread awareness of CSAPM Scheme, the Ministry stated as under:

“As per approved Action Plan under NJDP , organization of Workshop, Seminar and Awareness Campaign are approved activities included in the Annual Action Plan of NJB. NJB organizes the Workshop, Seminar and Awareness Campaign for promotion of innovative Jute Products , Jute Mark India Logo, creating awareness and inviting participation in approved promotional schemes / activities with active participation of representatives of Jute Industry (Jute Mills & MSME JDP Units). NJB also organizes stakeholders’ meetings with the representatives of Industry , IJMA, JPDEPC to ensure participation in Jute Promotional Activities. The JCI has been organizing Awareness Campaigns involving jute farmers for implementation of Jute- ICARE programme.”

174. The representative of the Ministry during oral evidence held in November, 2023 deposed as under:

“...Jute cultivation requires awareness also to be among the jute farmers. We are trying this through ICARE by distribution of jute certified seeds, retting accelerators, demonstration of modern agronomic practices by CRIJAF, etc. There is also a need to focus on the jute diversified products because it has a lot of export potential so the market share can improve vis-à-vis the jute sacking material through product diversification. We are also a very good alternative to the synthetic

products because we are a biodegradable and sustainable fibre and there is a lot of requirements in the coming times for this fibre and for these products. Hence more and more awareness about the bags, like 'Carry Your Own Bag' campaign and associating with various publicity campaigns of NGOs and promoting the jute through our fairs and exhibitions with active participation of our jute artisans and entrepreneurs is one way towards it."

175. The representative of the Ministry supplemented as under:

"Another point which has been mentioned is about coordination with the State Government and with district Magistrates is well taken regarding the dues of workers and interaction with them. We will try and see that in all our awareness camps, we also call the district administration and we also give a space for State administration to participate in all our events, so that there is better coordination in the awareness and even in other programmes."

XX. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

176. When asked whether there are any complaints of delay in disbursement of payment to farmers and what mechanism is available for the redressal of grievances, the Ministry stated as under:

"JCI does not have any complaints on delay in disbursement of payment to farmers. Further, it has a designated grievance officer redressing all grievances raised through CPGRAMS portal or received directly from individual complainants."

177. When asked about the mechanism in place to ensure that the details of grievance officer are made available to jute workers/ Workers Association and whether the designated officer periodically interacts with them or whether his/her role comes into picture only after receipt of grievance, the Ministry responded as under:

"For lodging complaints in the CPGRAMS portal, it is not necessary to have the details of the Grievance Officer. However, the contact details of the Grievance Officer along with Central Public Information Officer and First Appellate Authority have been placed in the website of the Jute Corporation of India. The grievances can also be directly lodged through CPGRAMS portal. The Corporation does not deal with the Jute Worker's Association of the Mills. It deals with the jute farmers for MSP and ICARE schemes. There are numerous meetings and awareness camps held with the farmers throughout the year. Further, Complaint boxes are placed in all offices of the Corporation where anyone having an issue may lodge a complaint directly. Whenever any complaint is received through the

portal or otherwise, its reply is sent within the stipulated time. As on date, the Corporation does not have any pending grievance.”

178. As jute cultivation is extremely labour intensive, the Committee desired to know as to how National Jute Board (NJB) ensure strict compliance of labour laws, whether cases of labour laws violation have been received from workers and what action has been taken to redress the complaints/ grievances of the jute workers. In response, the Ministry stated as under:

“Office of the Jute Commissioner often receive complaints/ grievances of the jute mills workers or Workers Association regarding various issues like payment of Gratuity, Provident fund, other Retirement benefits. Once the complaint is received, the matter taken up to the concerned Authorities like EPFO, ESIC, Labour Commissioner of State Govt.,etc.”

179. On being asked about the number of complaints received during the last three years, whether the Ministry/Jute Commissioner issued any instructions to mill owners for strict compliance of Labour Laws and coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Ministry stated as under:

“During the last three years (from 01st January, 2021 to 22nd November, 2023) 30 number of Complaints/Grievances has been received by the Office of the Jute Commissioner.

The complaints pertaining to labour issues to be dealt by other authorities like EPFO, ESIC etc. were forwarded to them for taking necessary action as per law. Out of the above-mentioned Complaints/Grievances 29 complaints/grievances have been disposed of and one is under process. Jute Commissioner Office has given instructions to all the mills to submit monthly returns on fulfilment of statutory dues of the labour. Hence, the mills are required to submit monthly report whether they have paid the EPF and ESI due to the labour. Jute Commissioner Office coordinates with the regional office of EPFO for resolution of any EPF related matter.”

PART-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

I. THE JUTE AND JUTE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

1. The Committee note that as on November 2023, there are 108 composite jute mills, out of which, the State of West Bengal has 79 jute mills, Andhra Pradesh 14 mills, Uttar Pradesh 3 mills, Bihar 4 mills, Odisha 3 mills, Assam 2 mills, Chhattisgarh 2 mills and Tripura 1 mill. Further, ownership-wise, 6 mills are under the Government of India, 1 mill each is owned by the Government of Tripura and Odisha respectively, 1 mill in Assam is in the cooperative sector and the rest 99 mills are privately owned. The Committee were apprised that 5 new jute mills were established in last 3 years while 5 jute mills declared closure during that period. The Committee were also apprised that two jute mills are proposed to be set up in Telangana by an industrial house, whereas, the Ministry of Textiles has no proposal to set-up new jute mill or upgrade the existing mills. The reasons for closure of mills in jute sector *inter alia* include problems in management, labour troubles and financial difficulties. The Ministry have also stated that usually, the jobless workers of the closed jute mills are engaged in nearby working jute mills as jute mills are facing shortage of skilled workers. While appreciating that two new jute mills are being set up in Telengana by an industrial house, the Committee, while considering that, 99 out of 108 mills are privately owned, desire the Ministry to have a comprehensive policy with regard to reviving the closed mills or setting up new mills by the Government. The Committee also call upon the Ministry to develop suitable mechanism, in consultation with the stakeholders *viz.* mill owners, workers etc., to address the factors leading to closure of mills. The Committee also desire the Ministry to devise suitable Scheme in consultation with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to minimize the shortage of skilled workers in jute industry.

II. JUTE PACKAGING MATERIALS (COMPULSORY USE IN PACKING COMMODITIES) ACT, 1987

2. The Committee note that the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act) has been enacted to provide for the compulsory use of jute packaging material in the supply and distribution of certain commodities in the interests of production of raw jute and jute packaging material, and of persons engaged in the production thereof, and for matters connected therewith. Under the

mandate of JPM Act, 1987, the Government keep percentage of mandatory packaging of food grains and sugar in jute material. During the last 5 years, the Government has been keeping 100% food grains and 20% sugar mandatory packaging in jute. The Notification issued by the Ministry is valid upto 30 June, 2024.

The Committee were been apprised that O/o Jute Commissioner has requested multiple times to Chief Director(Sugar), District Magistrates and Sub-Divisional Magistrate to initiate appropriate action against sugar mills found to have violated the stipulations of the Order issued under JPM Act, 1987. However, no response has been received from all concerned. The Committee impress upon the Ministry/JCI to take up the matter at the highest level and ensure that strict action is taken against the violators of the JPM Act, 1987.

3. The Committee also desire the Ministry to have close coordination with Department of Food and Public Distribution, Food Corporation of India, State Governments and District Authorities so that the orders regarding mandatory packaging of food grains and sugar in jute material are complied with in letter and spirit.

Inclusion of jute geo-textiles in the schedule of rates of various State Governments.

4. The Committee note that Jute Geo Textiles (JGT), an eco-compatible product enables to address critical geo technical problems such as soil erosion, consolidation of soft soil, construction of rural roads, stabilizing the slopes and for various agro textiles applications. The Committee were apprised that the use of Jute Geo Textiles in rural road construction through State Governments is one of the prime agenda of NJB for JGT promotion and for the purpose, the Ministry of Textiles have approached all State Governments for inclusion of Jute Geo Textiles in schedule of rates. The Committee note that while no State has expressed reservation in this regard, only 9 States have conveyed that they are including Jute Geo Textiles in schedule of rates. The Committee were apprised that the Ministry have already taken up the matter with the Chief Secretaries of the remaining States for inclusion of Jute Geo Textiles in the schedule of rates. In addition, the user agencies under State and Central Governments have also been approached for execution of MoUs for institutional buying of Jute Geo Textiles products. Further, the National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited

(NHIDCL) have expressed their willingness to execute MOU with NJB for institutional buying of jute geo textiles products.

Taking into account the steps being taken by the Ministry for promotion of Jute Geo Textiles and their institutional buying, the Committee recommend that concerted efforts be continued in coordination with the State Governments, user agencies, etc. for including Jute Geo Textiles in the schedule of rates of various State Governments so as to have an inbuilt mechanism for institutional buying of the Jute Geo Textiles products. The Committee agree with the views of the Ministry that for promoting jute products, the Government procurement agencies should buy jute products as office stationery for Conferences/Seminars/Workshops etc and desire the Ministry to take up the matter with all concerned on priority.

Workers' Welfare Scheme (Sulabh Sauchalaya)

5. The Committee note that NJB provided assistance to the jute mills for improvement of sanitation, health facilities and working conditions of jute mill workers through construction of toilets in jute mills. The Committee were apprised that the Sulabh Sauchalayas provided workers the best sanitation and health facilities and a wide spread impact was felt by the workers and their families. The Committee were also apprised that NJB is planning to organize medical check-up camps for jute mill workers and their family members during 2023-24 in association with local administration /District Authorities and the Health Departments of respective State Governments. The Committee are of the considered opinion that the welfare measure proposed to be initiated is in the right direction and appreciate the approach of the Ministry for improving health of jute mill workers and their families through coordinated efforts with State Governments. The Committee desire that the exercise of conducting medical-health check up camps be conducted on regular basis on periodic intervals. In addition, the facility of follow up treatment be provided especially in the case of occupational diseases caused due to exposure of jute mill workers to the working conditions.

III JUTE CORPORATION OF INDIA

6. The Committee note that Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has its presence in six jute growing States namely West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura and, at present, it has 110 Departmental Purchase Centres (DPC). The Committee further note that to replace hand and eye method to identify the grading of raw jute and the allowable moisture content in jute, the JCI is in the process of procuring lightweight digital moisture meters developed by Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA) for equipping all the DPCs. The Committee were apprised that 63 digital moisture meters have been distributed to the field units and by the end of the year 2023, all the centres would be equipped with these meters. Considering the fact that moisture content of jute is an important parameter to determine its quality, the Committee trust that all the remaining 47 Departmental Purchase Centres (DPC) have been provided digital moisture meters. The Committee wish to be apprised of the progress in this regard.

7. The Committee further note that JCI, in association with ICAR-National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology (NINFET), has set up its first Instrumental Jute Grading Common Facility Centre (Laboratory) at Katwa, West Bengal and the second laboratory is proposed to be setup at its Head Office in Kolkata. The Committee were apprised that this step will bring more scientific testing which is one of the important requirements for jute to comply on the quality parameters. As Jute crop cultivation is primarily concentrated in three States, namely, West Bengal, Assam and Bihar, the Committee desire that such laboratories be set up in Assam and Bihar also so that jute farmers get to know about the grade/quality of their jute, which, in turn, will help them in determination of the correct price of their jute.

8. The Committee further note that JCI in association with the National Jute Board (NJB) has entered into MoU with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC-ISRO) for the Jute Crop Information system for Jute Crop surveillance and monitoring of the agronomy. While appreciating the initiative taken by JCI and NJB, the Committee desire that the coordinated efforts be continued so as to ensure that the endeavour is drawn to its logical conclusion and information system for surveillance and monitoring of the agronomy is established in a time bound manner.

IV. NATIONAL JUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (NJDP)

(A) Jute-ICARE (Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) Scheme

9. The Committee note that NJB has been implementing Jute-ICARE (Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) Scheme since 2015-16 in a phased manner in association with Jute Corporation of India Ltd. (JCI), Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres (CRIJAF), Ministry of Agriculture, National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology (NINFET) and Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA). The objective of the Scheme is to improve quality and productivity in jute cultivation with introduction of a package of modern and scientific agronomic practices through distribution of High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of certified jute seeds @ 50% cost to increase the quality, productivity and farmer's income; free of cost distribution of (i) CRIJAF Sona (a microbial Consortium) to jute farmers for fast and quality retting of jute fibre and (ii) modern & scientific agronomic tools *viz.* seed drills, cycle nail weeder.

The Committee further note that from 2015-16 to 2020-21, the ICARE Scheme was spread to 2,58,324 jute farmers covering 1,10,893 hectare of land and 130 blocks under West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura. Subsequently, the Scheme was extended and included under NJDP after incorporating the suggestions/recommendations of the third party evaluation. The target set for five years *viz* during 2021-22 to 2025-26 is to cover 290 jute growing blocks, 2,70,893 hectare land, 5,78,000 jute farmers including the achievements made in the earlier scheme implemented during 2015-16 to 2020-21 at a total financial outlay of Rs 69.31 crore.

The Committee note that the land covered upto 2020-21 was 1,10,893 hectares, the target for 2021-22 to 2025-26 is 1,60,000 hectare and out of which 80379 hectare has been covered during first three years of implementation of the Scheme *viz.* 2021-22 to 2023-24 and 79621 hectares (approx 50%) of land is required to be covered during 2024-25 and 2025-26. The Committee also note that 2,58,324 jute farmers were covered upto 2020-21, the target for 2021-22 to 2025-26 is to cover 3,19,676 farmers and out of which 1,76,890 farmers have been covered during first three years of implementation of the Scheme *viz.* 2021-22 to 2023-24 and 1,42,786 (approx 45%) farmers are required to be covered during 2024-25 and 2025-26. The

Committee further note that 130 blocks were covered upto 2020-21, the target for 2021-22 to 2025-26 is to cover 160 blocks and out of them, 82 blocks have been covered during first two years of implementation of the Scheme viz. 2021-22 and 2022-23 and 78 blocks (approx 50%) are required to be covered during 2023-24 to 2025-26.

The Committee find that progress in respect of land and farmers to be covered is slow as approximately 50% land and 45% farmers are required to be covered in two years viz. 2024-25 and 2025-26. The Committee trust that, as assured by the Ministry, the target will be met by 2025-26.

10. The Committee were apprised that under ICARE Scheme, MGNREGA funds are being used for retting tanks. The Committee were also apprised that the process of construction of retting ponds under ICARE involves two phases i.e. construction and maintenance. Construction part is in convergence with MGNREGA, PMKSY and RKVY Schemes of Government of India and after completion of construction part, one time maintenance assistance @ Rs 5000/- per pond is given under ICARE Scheme of NJB being implemented at the field by JCI.

The Committee further note that 6771 farmers have expressed their willingness to provide land for construction of retting ponds and, out of them 194 tanks have been completed but none of the farmers have claimed financial assistance for the maintenance of constructed retting tanks indicating lack of awareness about the Scheme amongst the farmers. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry/NJB/JCI to intensify efforts and take all possible steps to ensure that the benefits of the Scheme are made available to the eligible farmers. The Committee also impress upon the Ministry to make coordinated efforts with the State Governments, District Administration and the nodal Ministries implementing MGNREGA, PMKSY and RKVY schemes so as to cover the remaining 6581 farmers, who have expressed their willingness to provide land for construction of retting ponds.

11. The Committee are concerned to note that there has been shrinkage in area under jute cultivation in all 10 Jute & Mesta growing States (except Meghalaya) from 8,38,000 hectares in 2013-14 to 6,67,300 hectares in 2021-22 i.e. the shrinkage is to the extent of 1,70,700 hectares in 09 years and one of the reasons for shrinkage is availability of alternate higher yielding option like real estate. The Committee have been apprised that new States viz. Jharkhand, Nagaland, Tripura and

Andhra Pradesh have been included under Jute ICARE to increase the area under jute cultivation. While taking note of the assurance given by the Ministry that with implementation of Jute -ICARE, the total area under jute cultivation will increase, the Committee urge the Ministry to further strengthen the measures/initiatives and also taken other innovative steps in this direction.

Skilling of jute farmers

12. The Committee note that one of the important components under Jute ICARE is to provide training to the Registered Jute Farmers, wherein the farmers are made aware and motivated for adopting better agronomic practices for jute cultivation by Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres (CRIJAF) at various stages of jute production. The Committee are deeply concerned to note that till the 9th phase of I-CARE project, out of estimated 40 lakh farmers, only 4.35 lakh farmers (10%) have been registered and the remaining 35.65 lakh farmers are yet to be registered. The Committee were apprised that in the tenth phase of I-CARE scheme, it has been planned to carry out survey so as to have reliable estimate of total number of jute farmers through an outside agency. The Committee impress upon the Ministry/NJB and JCI to ensure that the survey is undertaken and completed in a time bound manner so that the welfare schemes being implemented/proposed to be implemented for the welfare of jute farmers are truly extended to them. Further, considering the fact that only 10% jute farmers are registered, the Committee recommend that all possible steps be taken on priority for registration of jute farmers so that they get the training benefits being imparted by CRIJAF.

13. The Committee note that JCI had entered into MoU with National Seeds Corporation (NSC) for distribution of certified jute seeds on commercial basis during 2020-21. The Committee were apprised that the new varieties JRO-2024, JBO-2003H have gained popularity under Jute ICARE and inculcated confidence about better results to increase jute production. While appreciating the steps taken by JCI with regard to ensuring timely availability of certified jute seeds at the doorsteps in all States, the Committee desire that stringent action, in coordination with State Governments, be taken against those providing spurious seeds so that the efforts made by farmers during jute cultivation do not go waste and result in increasing production and income through availability of certified seeds.

B) Jute Diversification Scheme (JDS)

(i) Capital Subsidy for Acquisition of Plant & Machinery (CSAPM) for Manufacturing Jute Diversified Products

14. The Committee note that to facilitate modernization / upgradation of the existing Jute mills and MSME JDP Units for manufacturing Jute Diversified Products, incentive @ 30% of the cost of machinery facilitating investment of Rs 10,000 Lakh in acquisition of new machineries for production of JDPs by 100 Jute Mills/MSME-JDP Units, investment of over Rs 100 crore at total financial outlay Rs 30.00 crore would be provided under Sub-Scheme of Jute Diversification Scheme. The Committee further note that during 2021-22 and 2022-23, 3 applications (3 units) were covered under the CSAPM Scheme and Rs. 71.10 Lakh was disbursed against investment of Rs.2.37 Crore. In addition, 13 units have submitted their applications of LOI for participation under the CSAPM Scheme from whom claim applications are awaited. The Committee find that the progress under this Scheme is not satisfactory as against the targeted investment of Rs. 100 crore in acquisition of new machineries, the investment of only Rs. 2.37 crore has taken place during first two years of the implementation of the Scheme viz. during 2021-22 and 2022-23. The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Ministry to intensify the measures already initiated besides resorting to other innovative measures so as to ensure that a sizeable investment in acquisition of new machineries is obtained before the completion of the Scheme.

(ii) Jute Resource cum Production Centres (JRCPCs)

15. The Committee note that to spread jute diversification programme by providing Basic, Advance and Design development trainings to new artisans, rural youths and WSHGs for sustained employment for production of JDPs, 150 JRCPC Centres are to be set up to provide training to 18,000 artisans/beneficiaries and employment to 10,800 beneficiaries at a total financial outlay Rs 36.00 crore. The Committee note that out of 150 JRCPCs, only 41 JRCPCs (27% of the target for five years) have been set up and upto October, 2023, 1208 artisans/beneficiaries (6.7% of the target for five years) have been imparted training and out of them 282 artisans (2.6% of the target for five years) are employed in the production units or are self-employed and upto October, 2023, the expenditure incurred is Rs. 83.26 lakh (2.3% of the allocation for five years). The Committee, thus, find that during the

remaining period of implementation of the Scheme viz. upto 2025-26, 99 JRCPCs (66%) are to be set up, 16792 (93%) persons are to be trained and, out of them, 10518 (97.4%) persons are to be provided employment. The Committee thus find that the physical and financial progress of the Scheme is well behind the target set for five years. The Committee have been apprised that NJB is in the process of increasing the number of training programmes by pursuing the matter with collaborating agencies / JRCPCs in various States to achieve the target under the scheme. The Committee call upon the Ministry to seriously look into the impediments being faced in implementation of the Scheme and take appropriate measures on war footing so as to achieve physical and financial targets under the Scheme so that the objective of providing training to new artisans, rural youths and WSHGs and sustained employment for production of JDPs is truly achieved.

(iii) Jute Raw Material Banks (JRMBs)

16. The Committee note that to supply jute raw materials at mill gate price to Jute Artisans, MSMEs JDP Producing units and beneficiaries of Jute Resource cum Production Centres (JRCPCs) to manufacture Jute Diversified Products, 140 Jute Raw Material Banks (JRMBs) are to be opened to provide Jute Raw Materials at a total financial outlay Rs 16.80 crore. The Committee further note that 72 JRMBs have been opened till October, 2023 incurring expenditure of Rs. 2.91 crore. The Committee have been apprised that the existing MSME-JDP Units and WSHGs face difficulty in sourcing jute raw materials in smaller quantities locally or directly from the jute mills which hampers their production schedule and these JRMBs cater to their requirements. The Committee are satisfied with the progress made during 2021 to October, 2023, as against the target of setting up of 70 JRMBs, 72 JRMBs have been set up. The Committee desire that, as assured by the Ministry, the remaining 68 JRMBs be set up during the remaining implementation period of the Scheme viz. upto 2025-26 so that the benefits of the Scheme are truly extended to the intended beneficiaries.

(iv) Jute Retail Outlets (JRO)

17. The Committee note that to facilitate existing and new Artisans / Entrepreneurs, for promotion & Sale of JDPs through Retail Outlets / Showroom, 140 Jute Retail Outlets of Jute Diversified Products are to be opened at a total financial outlay of Rs. 12.60 crore. The Committee further note that 48 JROs are in operation till October, 2023 incurring expenditure of Rs. 0.49 crore and, as informed by the Ministry, the remaining 92 JROs would be selected and start operation during remaining implementation period of the Scheme *viz.* upto 2025-26. The Committee are not satisfied with the progress made with regard to operation of JROs as during 2021 to October, 2023, against the cumulative target of setting up of 70 JROs, only 48 JROs are operational and 22 more JROs are to be set up upto March, 2024. The Committee, therefore, call upon the Ministry to intensify efforts and take immediate action so as to ensure that the remaining 22 JROs are set up during 2023-24 and, thereafter, the target of setting up 70 JROs during 2024-25 to 2025-26 is achieved before the scheduled completion of the Scheme. The Committee also urge the Ministry to ensure that the guidelines regarding sourcing 50% of JDPs sold by JROs from Women Self Help Group and Jute Artisans are strictly adhered to.

(v) Jute Design Resource Centres (JDRCs)

18. The Committee note that for designing and development of market worthy innovative Jute Diversified Products and helping existing and new JDP manufacturers and exporters, 1600 Designs of innovative lifestyle jute products would be developed at total financial outlay Rs 5.80 crore. The Committee were apprised that NJB was in the process of procurement of machines through GeM Portal, however, due to non-availability of machines through GeM Portal, a Tender Committee has been constituted for procurement of machines. The Committee desire that the target of developing 1600 designs of innovative lifestyles jute products be achieved in a time bound manner. The Committee hope that the JDRC being set up by NIFT, Kolkata at the newly constructed Patsan Bhawan would be operationalized by the end of January 2024, as assured by the Ministry and similar Bhawans be set up in other major jute growing States.

(vi) Production Linked Incentive (PLI)

19. The Committee note that the objective of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) is to support/incentivize Jute Mills and MSME JDP units exporting JDPs to become cost competitive in the international markets and to help them to fetch export orders for JDPs. The Committee further note that during five year implementation period of the Scheme *viz* 2021-2022 to 2025-2026, 550 JDP manufacturing units would be provided incentive @ 3% of the export value or 5% of jute raw material cost, whichever is lower subject to maximum of Rs 12.00 Lakh per annum /unit at the total financial outlay of Rs 66.00 crore. The Committee were apprised that during 2021-22 to 2023-24 (upto Oct 2023), 103 JDP/exporter units (19%) have been provided incentive under the Scheme with the total expenditure of Rs. 8.14 crore (12%). The Committee are concerned to note that only 19% beneficiaries have been covered in the first 2½ years of implementation of the Scheme incurring only Rs. 8.14 crore (12%) of the financial outlay of Rs. 66 crore and the remaining 81% (447 JDP manufacturing units) are to be covered during the remaining 2½ year period of the Scheme with balance of financial outlay of approx. Rs. 56 crore, which in the opinion of the Committee is difficult to achieve in terms of physical and financial targets. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to seriously look into the impediments and take early steps to achieve the target by 2025-26.

20. The Committee note that 17 projects are being undertaken for Product Diversification (R&D Studies) since November, 2021 to explore the possibilities of Jute in both the Textile and Non-Textile applications and out of 17 projects, 11 projects are scheduled to be completed by December, 2024. While appreciating the steps being taken by the Ministry for Product Diversification (R&D Studies) to develop JDPs, the Committee desire that the timelines fixed for completion of projects be strictly adhered to through optimum utilization of budget allocated for the purpose besides periodically increasing the allocation for R&D Schemes keeping in mind the evolving needs.

C) Market Development & Promotion Scheme (MDPS)

(i) Jute Mark Logo

21. The Committee note that Jute Mark Logo was launched on 9 July, 2022 for branding and positioning of Indian Jute globally in domestic and international markets. The Committee further note that Jute Mark India registration authenticates the product being manufactured are of pure jute and jute blended products of Indian origin. The measures initiated by

NJB for creating awareness on usage of jute eco friendly product including jute bags *inter alia* include organizing outreach programmes for increasing awareness on usage of jute bags in place of plastic and publicity campaign on use of eco friendly jute bags “Bring your own bag”, etc. The Committee were also apprised that the impact assessment of Jute Mark Logo will be done in year 2024-25 alongwith other Schemes of NJDP.

The Committee feel that the logo will help jute farmers to get fair prices for their product; give boost to jute industry thereby creating job opportunities for artisans and manufactures; and availability of authentic and high quality jute products to consumers, etc. The Committee, therefore, desire that the measures already initiated for promotion of jute products especially those bearing Jute Mark Logo be intensified in the larger interest of jute farmers, artisans and manufacturers and consumers and also to achieve the objective of branding and positioning of Indian Jute globally in domestic and international markets. This will also help tackling the menace of plastic bags and replacing such bags with eco friendly jute bags.

(ii) Fairs/Exhibitions

22. The Committee note that for facilitating participation of Jute Artisans, WSHGs, MSMEs and Mills in Exhibitions and Fairs for direct sales and promotion of JDPs in domestic and international markets, during 2021-2022 and 2022-23, 66 Fairs/Exhibitions (24 in 10 States/UT in 2021-22 and 42 in 2022-23 in 16 States/UT) were organized and 1,300 Units/Beneficiaries (564 in 2021-22 and 736 in 2022-23) were supported. Considering the fact that the approved Schemes under National Jute Development Programme (NJDP) are being implemented by NJB on Pan India basis, the Committee desire that the promotional activities being organized by NJB for facilitating participation of Jute Artisans, WSHGs, MSMEs and Mills be organized Pan India for Development and Promotion of jute sector.

D) Scholarship Scheme for Girl Children of Workers of Jute Mills/MSME JDP unit

23. The Committee note that the objective of the Scholarship Scheme for Girl Children of Workers of Jute Mills/MSME JDP unit is to provide support to the jute workers girl children and family for providing higher education to the girl children and improvement in the education standard. Under the Scheme, scholarship is provided to Secondary Exam pass outs @ Rs 5000 and to the Higher Secondary pass outs @ Rs 10,000. The target for five years viz. during 2021-22 to 2025-26 is to provide scholarship to 22500 girl children [10th Pass out Girl Children: 15000 (3000 children each during 2021-22 to 2025-26) and 12th pass out Girl Children: 7500 (1500 children each during 2021-22 to 2025-26)] at a total financial outlay of Rs 15.00 crore (7.5 crore each to 10th and 12th pass outs during 5 years period).

The Committee further note that during 2021-22 and 2022-23, 8172 (4404 in 2021-22 and 3768 in 2022-23) girl children (90%) were benefitted against the target of 9000 intended beneficiaries. As stated by the Ministry, the reason for less number of girl children participation under the scholarship scheme is attributable to less number of girl children passed in Secondary/Higher Secondary Examinations as compared to 2021-22. The Committee also note that the beneficiaries covered during 2022-23 belonged to 42 Jute Mills and 6MSME JDP Units in three States viz. West Bengal, Assam and Kerala despite the fact that there are 108 Jute Mills in 08 States. As informed by the Ministry, the applications from remaining 5 States were not received due to non-response from the jute mills.

The Committee feel that the primary reason for not achieving the target is lack of awareness amongst the intended beneficiaries and non-availability of their data base. The Committee, thereupon, impress upon the Ministry/NJB to intensify the awareness campaigns at the grass root level through direct contact with jute mill workers/authorities and also coordinate with District Administration/education authorities so as to maintain data base of intended beneficiaries, which in turn, would also help in fixing/revising target during the remaining period of the Scheme.

24. The Committee note that the Scholarship Scheme is being implemented by NJB since 2014-15 and, on an average, 3600 girl children were benefitted for which Rs. 2.60 crore was incurred annually. The Committee also note that the Scholarship amount was fixed in 2014-15 and there has been no increase during the last eight years. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Scholarship amount be suitably increased keeping in view the inflation as well as the interest of beneficiaries.

25. The Committee appreciate that a proposal to provide scholarship to the girl children on passing out graduation level examinations is also under active consideration of Ministry of Textiles. The Committee desire that the same be expedited so that the endeavour is drawn to its logical conclusion and the targetted persons are actually benefitted.

V. ALLIED FIBRE/FLAX FIBRE

26. The Committee note that Flax fibre has wide use in the textile sector for its higher strength and luster. The Committee were apprised that at present, the domestic production of quality flax fibre suitable for the apparel sector is almost negligible and, in order to meet the domestic demand of flax fibre and/or fabric (linen), the manufacturers of linen fabrics have to import the flax fibre/fabrics from countries like Belgium, France, China, Netherlands, etc. for which expenditure to the tune of Rs. 800 Cr. is annually incurred. In 2020, India exported \$3.54M processed Flax Fibres mainly to Bangladesh, Lithuania, Belgium, Indonesia and China and imported \$47.7M worth Flax mainly from Belgium, France, Lithuania, Belarus and Egypt. The Committee are concerned to note that India does not have significant presence among the flax fibre producing countries. The Committee, however, note that the domestic demand for flax could be met by domestic supply as India has good supply of linseed to produce flax fibre domestically.

The Committee further note that the mandate of National Jute Board Act, 2008 is connected with the development of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of jute and jute products and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto. The Committee find that an exercise was undertaken in 2022 to analyse the importance of Allied fibre (Sunhemp, Ramie, Sisal ,Flax, Banana Fibre, Pineapple Fibre, Hemp Fibre and Nettle Fibre) for incorporating them in the mandate of National Jute Board Act, 2008, however, the same has not yielded the desired

results. The Committee were apprised that there is a need for detailed study for analyzing this sector and intervention in the cultivation of Allied fibre needs to be taken up with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare as the matter comes under its purview.

Considering the fact that India has potential to meet its domestic demand for flax, the Committee impress upon the Ministry to urgently take steps to undertake exhaustive study and explore incorporation of Allied Fibre with jute in the mandate of National Jute Board Act, 2008 through consultation with the Ministries/stakeholders concerned including the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, etc. in the larger interest of Jute Sector/Industry.

The Committee appreciate that a Project on 'Development of Modern Mini-spinning Machinery for Processing of Jute and Allied Fibres for Small Industries' is being executed by ICAR-National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology w.e.f. 27.06.2023 for a period of 3 years for which Rs. 82.50 lakh has been allocated. The Committee wish to be apprised of the progress in this regard.

VI. NATIONAL JUTE POLICY

27. The Committee note that the National Jute Policy for development and promotion of Jute Sector was declared in 2005. The Committee were apprised that New Jute Policy has been included in the draft National Textile Policy, which is under consideration of Ministry. The Committee feel that the exercise being undertaken by the Ministry would not only help in policy formulation and planning but also pave the way for development of the Textiles Industry. Considering the fact that the jute sector occupies an important place in the national economy and provides direct and indirect employment and source of livelihood to millions of people including a large number of women and rural population, the Committee exhort the Ministry to expedite formulation of National Textile Policy and complete the exercise within a definite timeline.

VII. AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

28. The Committee note that the National Jute Board (NJB) organizes workshops, seminars and awareness campaigns for promotion of innovative Jute Products, Jute Mark India Logo, etc. with active participation of representatives of Jute Industry (Jute Mills & MSME JDP Units), Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) and Jute Products Development & Export Promotion Council (JPDEPC). The Jute

Corporation of India (JCI) also, on their part, organizes awareness camps under Project I-CARE through which Advance Agronomic practice are disseminated to the farmers and Jute advisories are also issued from time to time through ICAR CRIJAF.

The Committee are of the considered view that conducting awareness/ publicity campaigns on “Stop Use Plastic, Use Eco-friendly Jute Bag”, associating environmental groups/NGOs in publicity campaign, Display & promotion through Jute Retail Outlets and Jute Fairs/ Exhibitions with active participation of jute artisans/ entrepreneurs are the steps in right direction and need to be continued in the right earnest. Further, as assured by the representative of the Ministry during oral evidence, the Committee desire that the State/District administration also need to be associated while organizing awareness campaigns so as to have better coordination. The Committee also desire that the participation of local MPs, MLAs and other public representatives be ensured so that their feedback and suggestions could be gainfully utilized.

VIII. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

29. The Committee note that Office of the Jute Commissioner often receives complaints/ grievances of the jute mills workers or Workers' Association regarding various issues like payment of Gratuity, Provident Fund, other retirement benefits. The Committee were apprised that Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has a designated Grievance Officer for redressal of all grievances raised through CPGRAMS portal or received directly from individual complainants and whenever any complaint is received through the portal or otherwise, its reply is sent within the stipulated time. The Committee appreciate that out of 30 complaints/grievances received by the Office of the Jute Commissioner during the last three years (from 01st January, 2021 to 22nd November, 2023), 29 complaints/grievances have been disposed of and one is under process. The Committee desire that the pending single grievance be disposed of on priority and awareness campaign about existence of grievance redressal mechanism be launched for the benefit of workers. The Committee further note that Office of the Jute Commissioner have issued instructions to all the mills to submit monthly returns on fulfilment of statutory dues of the labour. The Committee impress upon the Ministry/JCI to ensure that the instructions issued by them are strictly enforced so as to ensure that contribution on account of EPF and ESI of the workers are timely submitted so that they do not face any inconvenience on this aspect. The Committee also desire

the Ministry/JCI to maintain close coordination with EPFO, ESIC and Labour Commissioner of State Governments in the larger interest of jute mill workers.

IX. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL JUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (NJDP)

30. The Committee note that the National Jute Development Programme (NJDP), an Umbrella Scheme for development and promotion of Jute Industry /Sector, comprising the Schemes/Sub-Schemes for jute agriculture (JUTE-ICARE), modernization (CSAPM), diversification (JRCPC, JRMB, JRO, JDRC, PLI and MDPS) and workers' welfare (Scholarship) is being implemented during 15th Finance Commission period (2021-2022 to 2025-2026) at total financial outlay of Rs. 485.58 crore. During 2021-22 and 2022-23, out of the allocated amount of Rs. 170.95 crore, Rs.86.50 crore (50%) was utilized and approximately Rs. 400 crore (82% of total outlay of Rs. 485.58 crore) is to be utilized during the remaining period of implementation *viz.* during 2023-24 to 2025-26. The Committee while analyzing all the Schemes/Sub-Schemes under NJDP find that the physical and financial progress of NJDP during the first two and half years of its implementation is not encouraging and despite the efforts being made by the Ministry, NJB and JCI, a lot still needs to be done to achieve the objectives of various Schemes. The Committee, therefore, exhort the Ministry to address the underutilization of funds, strengthen coordination, monitoring & implementation mechanism and bring forth robust interventions to considerably improve performance of the Scheme in physical and financial terms. The Committee also take cognizance of the fact that in order to assess the performance of the Schemes being implemented under NJDP, an MoU has been signed between the Ministry and NJB to evaluate the Schemes through a third party agency during the first quarter of 2024-25. The Committee desire that the evaluation exercise be completed in a time bound manner and the recommendations so made be also examined and implemented within the stipulated time frame for development and promotion of Jute Industry/Sector.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND
SKILL DEVELOPMENT (2022-23)**

Minutes of the Twenty-Sixth Sitting of the Committee

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 06th September, 2023 from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
3. Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
4. Shri Satish Kumar Gautam
5. Dr. Umesh G. Jadhav
6. Shri Dharmendra Kumar Kashyap
7. Adv. Dean Kuriakose
8. Dr. D. Ravikumar
9. Shri Naba (Hira) Kumar Sarania
10. Shri Bhola Singh
11. Shri Nayab Singh
12. Shri Giridhari Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

13. Shri Naresh Bansal
14. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri T.G. Chandrasekhar - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Sanjay Sethi - Director
3. Shri Sreekanth S. - Deputy Secretary
4. Shri K. G. Sidhartha - Deputy Secretary

Witnesses

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Ms. Rachna Shah	Secretary
2.	Shri Rajeev Saxena	Joint Secretary
3.	Ms. Prajakta L. Verma	Joint Secretary (Fibre)
4.	Shri Ajay Gupta	Joint Secretary
5.	Smt Shubhra	Trade Advisor
6.	Shri Moley Chandan Chakraborty	Jute Commissioner, Kolkata

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for xxxxxxxxxxxx as well as for briefing by the representatives of the Ministry of Textiles on the Subject 'Development and Promotion of Jute Industry'

3. xxxxxxxx

4. The representatives of the Ministry of Textiles were then called in and the Chairperson welcomed them. Drawing the attention of the witnesses to Direction 58 of the 'Directions by the Speaker' regarding confidentiality of the proceedings of the Committee, the Chairperson asked them to apprise the Committee of the functioning of the Jute Textile Industry; Raw Jute Scenario and the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in packing Commodities) Act, 1987; fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute and Mesta; Production and Domestic Consumption of Jute Goods; Performance in export and import of Raw Jute and Jute Goods; Imposition of Anti Dumping Duty; Role, Functions, Progress and Schemes/Initiatives run by various Organizations of Jute Industry like Office of Jute Commissioner, National Jute Board, Jute Corporation of India; system of monitoring and control over the performance of the schemes/initiatives, etc.

5. The Secretary, Ministry of Textiles briefed the Committee and, thereafter, Joint Secretary (Fibre) made a Power Point Presentation which *inter-alia* included overview of the Jute Sector; Jute Value Chain; varieties of Jute produced; production and yield of raw Jute in India; production and domestic consumption of Jute goods; Jute production in India *vis-a-vis* other Jute producing countries viz. Bangladesh, China, Uzbekistan, Nepal *vis-à-vis* world; export and import trends of Jute; export of Jute Diversified Products (JDPS); demand of B.Twill Sacking; MSP operation by Jute Corporation of India; trends in MSP and market price of Raw Jute; Various Schemes run by National Jute Board (NJB) for development and promotion of Jute industry *viz.* National Jute Development Programme (NJDP), Jute-ICARE Scheme, Jute Diversification Scheme, Market Development Promotion Scheme, Scholarship Scheme; new initiatives taken by the Ministry for development and promotion of Jute and challenges faced, etc.

6. The Members then raised various queries which *inter-alia* included reasons for constant decrease in production of jute goods in 'Others Category' since 2019-20; reasons for decrease in exports in 2021-22 *vis-à-vis* 2022-23; measures adopted for creating awareness amongst jute workers regarding the Scholarship Scheme for the girl children of the workers of jute mills, MDME-JDP Units; State-wise details of Jute Resource cum Production Centres (JRPCs), the training capacity of each centre, number of beneficiaries imparted training and the outcome of the training provided; challenges faced while implementing different Schemes/Programmes and concrete measures taken or proposed to overcome the challenges; role of the Ministry/Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI) to help/assist farmers in setting up of retting tanks under MGNREGA; State/District-wise details of skill development/training provided by NJB to Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) and proposal of the Ministry/NJB to provide the employment opportunities to such trainees; performance of jute industry during the last four years especially during Covid Pandemic; jute mills established/closed during the last three years, number of workers lost jobs/employment during Covid pandemic/due to closure of mills and specific

welfare measures taken for the jute workers during the Covid-19 Pandemic; steps being taken to enhance both quality and quantity of the jute in the Country; effect of ban on single use plastic on demand of Jute products and the steps taken/being taken to meet the demand; steps taken to ensure compliance of labour laws by NJB; State-wise details of the number of jute farmers skilled during the last three years; places of cultivation of flax plant, number of farmers involved, the demand and supply of linen fabric in the country/abroad, research undertaken/proposed to be undertaken on flax seeds, etc. The representatives of the Ministry responded to some of the queries/points raised by the Members.

7. As some points required detailed and statistical data, the Chairperson asked the representatives to furnish written replies thereon within two/three weeks. They assured to comply.

8. The Chairperson thanked the representatives of the Ministry for appearing before the Committee and responding to the queries of the Members.

The witnesses then withdrew)

[A copy of the verbatim record of proceedings was kept on record]

The Committee then adjourned.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND
SKILL DEVELOPMENT (2023-24)**

Minutes of the Fourth Sitting of the Committee

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 16th November, 2023 from 1100 hrs. to 1250 hrs. in Committee Room No. 1, EPHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
3. Shri Satish Kumar Gautam
4. Dr. Umesh G. Jadhav
5. Shri Dharmendra Kumar Kashyap
6. Shri Khalilur Rahaman

RAJYA SABHA

7. Shri Naresh Bansal
8. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha
9. Shri Elamaram Kareem
10. Ms. Dola Sen

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Jadumani Baisakh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Sanjay Sethi - Director

Witnesses

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Smt. Rachna Shah	Secretary
2.	Ms. Prajakta L. Verma	Joint Secretary (Jute)
3.	Shri Ajay Gupta	Joint Secretary
4.	Shri Rajeev Saxena	Joint Secretary
5.	Shri Ajay Kumar Jolly	MD (JCI)
6.	Shri Neeraj Kulhari	Dy. Jute Commissioner
7.	Shri Kalyan K. Mazumdar	GM (JCI)
8.	Shri Purnesh Gururani	Director (Jute)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Textiles to the sitting of the Committee convened to take their further oral evidence on the Subject “Development and Promotion of Jute Industry”. The Chairperson asked the Ministry to update the Committee about progress made on the issues pertaining to the Jute Sector including Grading of Jute/Mesta; Production, Import and Export of Jute and Jute Goods; Scholarship Scheme for the girl children of the workers of jute mills, MDME-JDP Units; Jute Resource cum Production Centres (JRCPCs), Improved Cultivation and Retting Exercise (ICARE); Jute Raw Material Bank (JRMB), Jute Retail Outlets (JROs), Production Linked Incentive (PLI), plan of action for flax cultivation in the areas identified by the Ministry, Monitoring Mechanism; Grievance Redressal Mechanism; Skilling of jute farmers; Jute Mark Logo, etc.

3. The Secretary, Ministry of Textiles briefed the Committee and thereafter, Joint Secretary (Jute) made a power point presentation *inter-alia* highlighting the Jute Sector providing employment to 4 lakh workers, livelihood of 40 lakh farm families, turnover of Rs. 18,000 crores and existence of 108 Jute Mills largely concentrated in West Bengal; role, functions and duties of Jute Commissioner, National Jute Board, Jute Corporation of India; Industry bodies/Associations associated with Jute Sector viz. IJRA, IJMA & JPDEPC; production & yield of Jute since 2018-19; share of major States in area & production; procurement of raw jute under MSP since 2022-23; production & share of jute goods; import and export of jute and jute goods; measures being taken to bring indigenously produced jute at par with Bangladesh; replacement of ISAPM with CSAPM in NJDP for manufacturing of JDPs; Workers' Welfare & Jute Diversification Schemes; establishment of new Composite Jute Mills; challenges & areas of concern for Jute Sector; institutional buying of jute products especially by Government procurement agencies as office stationery, etc.

4. The Members then raised various queries which *inter-alia* included details of daily market demand of raw jute and the daily sale by the Corporation; steps taken/being taken to encourage jute mill owners to increase production of innovative products *viz.* other jute items (decorative fabrics, special hessian, webbing etc) and the measures taken/being taken to increase awareness of such products; measures proposed for welfare of workers, coverage under e-Shram, etc; steps being undertaken to ensure coverage of all eligible girl children under 'Scholarship Scheme for the girl children of the workers of jute mills; criteria for determination of MSP; plan of action for flax cultivation to meet the domestic demand for flax and also to reduce imports; mechanism available for coordination with the Ministry of Labour and

Employment with regard to grievances of workers pertaining to EPFO, ESIC, Labour Commissioner of State Government; proposal to formulate National Jute Policy for development and promotion of Jute Sector, etc.

5. As some points required detailed and statistical data, the Chairperson asked the representatives to furnish written replies thereon within ten days. They assured to comply.

6. The Chairperson thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Textiles for appearing before the Committee and responding to the queries of the Members.

(The witness then withdrew)

[A copy of the verbatim record of proceedings was kept on record]

The Committee then adjourned.