

**JUTE INDUSTRY IN BENGAL**

2512. SHRI PARTHA BHOWMICK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES वस्त्र मंत्री  
be pleased to state :

- (a) the Government's current policy framework to support and promote the Jute Industry in Bengal, particularly in light of recent challenges such as declining mill operation and reduced working shifts for Jute Mill Worker;
- (b) the details of the factors contributing to the significant drop in annual jute sales from 3,80,000 bales to 1,50,000 bales and the measures are being considered to reverse this trend;
- (c) the steps the Government is taking to address the reduction in working days and shifts for jute mill workers from seven days and three shifts to four days and two shifts, ensuring both employment stability and industry productivity;
- (d) the Government's stance and policy regarding the substitution of traditional jute gunny bags with polybags for commodities like sugar, onion and potato;
- (e) its impact on the jute industry and the measures being taken to promote the use of jute bags over poly bags; and
- (f) the details of the Government's intent to manage and strengthen bilateral relation with Bangladesh concerning jute procurement and its impact on Indian Jute Farmers and domestic jute industries?

उत्तर

ANSWER

वस्त्र राज्य मंत्री (श्री पबित्र मार्घेरिता)  
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES  
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

**(a) to (e) :** In order to boost the jute industry of the country including West Bengal, the Government, has enacted the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 stipulating certain commodities to be packed in jute material. Based upon the demand & supply position of raw jute and jute Goods, the Government prescribes reservation of commodities to be packed in Jute bags. During the last six years, the Government has kept reservations of 100% and 20% for food grains and sugar respectively for packaging in jute bags.

Ministry of Textiles and Department of Food & Public Distribution review the demand and supply plan of jute bags regularly and engage with State Procurement Agencies for placing indent of jute bags in accordance with supply plan to ensure stability for jute sector.

Under National Jute Development Program, the Government organizes seminar, workshops, participation in Regional and National exhibitions, publicity campaigns to promote the use of jute bags over polybags. During the last three years, the Government have incurred Rs.23.94 crore on such awareness campaigns.

**(f):** The Government of India regularly engages with the Government of Bangladesh on matters relating to bilateral trade under relevant bilateral institutional mechanisms of Joint Working Group on Trade and Commerce Secretary Level Talks. Issue of jute imports from Bangladesh is also discussed under such mechanisms.

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