

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4015
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2003
JUTE PACKAGING ORDER
PRABHA RAU

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the representatives of the domestic jute industry have submitted a representation to the union Government regarding the problems being faced by them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the jute industry have inter alia urged upon the Government to help them in the matter of dilution of mandatory jute packaging order for foodgrains and sugar which might render large number of workers without work;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have reviewed its decision in this regard;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL))

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The government has received representations both from the employees Association as well as the employers of the Jute Industry. The demands of the employees are mainly oriented to increase in wages, DA Bonus etc. and to clear pending dues of PF, Gratuity etc. Whereas the employers' demands vary from providing power, infrastructural facilities, soft loan, reduction in cost factors etc.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. The government had earlier issued a notification dated 12th July, 2002 providing gradual dilution under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987. The said notification was challenged by the Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) before the single bench of Hon'ble High Court at Kolkata, which dismissed the petition. Later, the IJMA filed two appeal petitions before the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court at Kolkata challenging the judgment of the trial Court and praying for quashing the notification dated 12-7-02. Hon'ble Division Bench in their judgment dated 27-6-03 have allowed the petitions of IJMA. The Government has filed an SLP on 13.08.2003 challenging this decision of the Division Bench. In the meanwhile, in compliance of the judgment of the Division Bench, Government has rescinded the order dated 12.07.2002 by issuing a fresh notification.