

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1406

ANSWERED ON:16.07.2004

USE OF JUTE BAGS

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Khan Shri Sunil;Satpathy Shri Tathagata;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

**Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government ensure the mandatory use of jute bags for packing of the food articles;
- (b) whether mandatory use of jute bag for packing of the food articles has been diluted;
- (c) whether synthetic bags have been allowed for packing of the food articles;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Indian Jute Mill Association has demanded Government policy/package for Jute Industry;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether there is a plan to increase production of jute goods with wider market network in the country and overseas market;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the details of the funds made available during the last three years for promotion of Jute Industry?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF TEXTILES ( SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA )

(a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government ensure mandatory use of jute bags for packing foodgrain & sugar upto the specified level fixed as per orders issued from time to time under clause 3 (1) of the Jute Packaging (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

(b) After considering the recommendations of the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC), the mandatory use of jute bags for packing foodgrains & sugar has been diluted from time to time.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. The Government has not taken any decision to pack foodgrains & sugar in synthetic bags. Reduction in percentage of mandatory packaging in jute material does not imply compulsory packaging in synthetic bags. It is the discretion of the users to use jute bags or any other alternative packaging material to the extent of relaxation granted by the Government under the JPM Act, 1987.

(e) & ( f) Yes, Sir. Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) has been demanding on various occasions for 100% reservation for packing foodgrains & sugar in jute materials.

(g) to ( i) Yes, Sir. The 10th Plan has projected that jute goods production would increase to 19.5 lakh MTs. The overall thrust of the jute sector is to promote jute diversified product, develop new product range, extend technological and financial support to the small and medium sector, in particular and to the organized sector generally through capital subsidy Schemes and Technology upgradation fund as well as other infrastructure development schemes like Jute Service Centres, Raw Material Banks, Design Development Scheme and Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme. For expansion of markets abroad, Jute Manufacturer Development Council (JMDC) is taking steps to popularize use of jute geo-textiles and foodgrade jute bags and other jute products by way of organizing buyers sellers meets, participations, exhibitions and fairs etc. Use of Jute Geo-Textiles has increased to 787.4 M.Ts during 2003-04 (April-December) as against 270 M.Ts during 2002-03. JMDC action plan for 2004-2005 has projected Rs.7.48 crores for activities pertaining to export market development, domestic market development, scientific research studies and others. The amount spent by JMDC during the last three financial years i.e. 2001-02, 2002-03 & 2003-04 were Rs.269.72 lakhs, Rs.427.41 lakhs & Rs.448.18 lakhs respectively. Similarly, the grant received by National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD) for promotion of Jute Diversified Products (JDPs) during the last three financial years i.e. 2001-02, 2002-03 & 2003-04 were Rs.308 lakhs, Rs.525 lakhs & Rs.695 lakhs respectively.