

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:11
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004
JUTE INDUSTRY
Mollah Shri Hannan

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any letter from West Bengal Chief Minister regarding Jute Industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposed to take any action for revival, development and diversification of Jute Industry;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government is contemplating a 'National Jute Policy';
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the time by when the said policy is likely to be announced?

Answer

MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a)&(b): The Government has received three letters from the Chief Minister of West Bengal, the first dated 23.04.2004 addressed to the Prime Minister, the second dated 22.06.2004 addressed to the Union Minister of Textiles and the third dated 16.7.2004 addressed to the Union Minister of Finance, on various issues relating to the jute industry.

(i): It has been ordered to pack foodgrains and sugar to the extent of 100% and 90% respectively in jute bags during the jute year 2004-05, ending on 30th June, 2005, under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

(ii): There are several schemes to support and revive the jute industry, such as Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC) incentive scheme for modernization of jute industry, External Market Assistance (EMA) scheme, National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD)'s schemes for Jute Service Centre, Raw Jute Material Bank Scheme, Product Development and Market Support Schemes, Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme (JEAS), NGO Assistance Scheme, etc. The Ministry of Textiles has its flagship scheme of Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), which includes the jute industry.

(iii): The Ministry of Textiles encourages diversification and modernization of the jute industry through Research and Development (R&D) support to the Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA) and for capacity building and skill development through support to the Institute of Jute Technology (IJT).

(e)to(g): The Government is in the process of formulating a comprehensive jute policy. In order to solicit viewpoints from all concerned stakeholders and to have detailed discussion on the subject, a National Conference on jute was convened at Kolkata on 19th and 20th November 2004. Recommendations on the matter have been received. As policy formulation is a lengthy consultative process, it may not be appropriate to assign a time frame for announcing the jute policy at this stage.