

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4256

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016

Jute Cultivation

Singh Shri Brijbhushan Sharan

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the promotion of jute cultivation industries may contribute to the protection of environment in the country and if so, the steps being taken by the Government thereon;
- (b) the State-wise number of jute mills in the country;
- (c) whether the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices in its recent report has suggested to discontinue the existing policy of using only jute bags in sugar mills, if so, whether such suggestion is likely to affect the jute industries and if so, the details thereof and the policy of the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether jute is called the crop of rainy season and whether this crop is damaged badly in case of shortfall of rain and if so, the arrangements made by the Government to tackle such situation;
- (e) whether the Government provides any subsidy for the cultivation of jute as it is a cost and labour-intensive crop and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of foreign exchange earned by the country from the export of jute, country-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI AJAY TAMTA)

(a): Jute is a bio-degradable and environment friendly fibre. In order to promote Jute cultivation, the Government has launched the project Jute-ICARE (Jute Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) in January, 2015 in selected Blocks of West Bengal and Assam to improve income of farmers through increase in yield and improvement in quality of fibres.

(b): The state-wise number of jute mills in the country is as under:-

State No. of jute mills
West Bengal 70
Andhra Pradesh 13
Bihar 3
Uttar Pradesh 3
Assam 2
Odisha 3
Chhattisgarh 2
Tripura 1
TOTAL 97

(c): The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACPC), in their report had recommended that compulsory packaging for jute sacking in foodgrains should be reduced to the level of 75% and sugar sector should be totally exempted from mandatory reservation. However, with a view to protect the interest of jute producers and their products, Government has issued a notification dated 14.1.2016 under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act) which stipulates that a minimum of 20% of sugar has to be mandatorily packed in jute packaging material manufactured in India and raw jute produced in India. The validity of Notification has since been extended upto 30th September, 2016.

(d) & (e): Jute is predominantly grown as a rain-fed crop. The Government takes various measures to safeguard the interests of jute farmers in case of any eventualities by way of several interventions. Details of these interventions are given in Annexure-I.

(f) : The details of foreign exchange earned by the country from the export of jute, country-wise is given in Annexure-II.