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Title: Need to fix the Minimum Support Price of raw jute above Rs. 4000/- per quintal.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY (JALPAIGURI): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me the kind permission to raise an urgent matter in the House today.

Sir, this is the season for marketing of raw jute and Boro paddy, but the market price of jute and Boro paddy is very low. There are more than a crore of cultivators of raw jute in the North-East India, including West Bengal. Now, it is a very serious problem that when the cultivators are marketing their raw jute in the market, the market price of jute has come down. The production cost is very high due to high prices of fertilisers, seeds, pesticides etc, but the sale price is very low. So, the jute growers are finding jute cultivation increasingly unviable due to its low price in the market. The prices of DAP, MoP and other fertilizers as well as of urea have been increasing. The volatile oil prices and increase in the prices of petrol and diesel are also an added burden on the farmers. For these reasons, the production cost of jute is increasing continuously. So, I demand that the Union Government fixes the Minimum Support Price of raw jute at not less than Rs. 4,000 per quintal.

On the other hand, there is Jute Corporation of India, which is an undertaking body of the Union Government. The main duty of JCI is to look after the benefit of jute growers and jute industries. JCI has a duty to purchase raw jute from the market by extending sufficient support price, but JCI cannot do its duty for lack of sufficient funds. So, I would urge upon the Union Government to make the JCI very active and efficient for purchasing raw jute from the open market by way of extending sufficient support price.