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Title: Need to revise Minimum Support Price of raw jute to ensure remunerative price to jute growers in West Bengal.

DR. RATNA DE (HOOGHLY): Jute, the Golden fibre is the second most important fibre yielding crop next to cotton. Over the last one and a half decade, jute production has increased from 20.5 quintals to 23.5 quintals per hectare across the country. In West Bengal during this period, the productivity increased from 23 quintals per hectare to 26 quintals per hectare. Nearly 40 lakh farming families and 2.5 lakh persons are directly involved in this golden crop. In West Bengal 23 lakh farming families are engaged in jute cultivation. Of late Jute and allied fibre sector are facing stiff competition from synthetics, changing climatic condition, shortage of labourers, non-availability of quality seeds and steep hike of agricultural inputs which have increased the cost of jute production. I would like to request Hon'ble Minister of Textiles for a revision of Minimum Support Price of raw Jute or to announce bonus on existing M.S.P. and give emphasis on this crop in West Bengal, otherwise this sector will be in dire straits in West Bengal. Jute is a biodegradable natural fibre and also eco-friendly. It has huge potentiality of producing diversified products which have huge demand in developed countries.