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Title: Need to utilize the amount of cess collected from jute manufacturing companies for development of jute and jute products.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to bring to the attention of the House a problem regarding the jute industry, which is a major industry in West Bengal. The Government of India collects cess from the jute manufacturers under Section 3 of Jute Manufacturers Cess Act, 1983. The cess is to be used for the purposes of JMDC Act, 1983, and now National Jute Board Act, 2008.

Section 5 of the National Jute Board Act defines the purpose to promote the development of jute and jute products by such measures as it thinks fit. The Preamble of the Act says:-

"For the development of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of jute and jute products and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto."

Sir, the figures are in the following order:- In the year 2010-11, cess collected was Rs. 81 crore and the cess given to the industry was Rs. 37 crore. In the year 2011-12, cess collected was Rs. 85 crore and the amount spent for the development was Rs. 34 crore. In the year 2012-13, cess collected is Rs. 87 crore and the grants are of the order of Rs. 34 crore. That means the Government of India instead of giving the whole cess collected for the development of jute cultivation and the jute industry, is giving only half of the cess collected and appropriating the other half of the money for other purposes. I demand that the whole cess collected from the jute manufacturers under the Jute Manufacturers Cess Act be returned to the jute industry and for jute cultivation in the interests of three lakh jute workers and four million jute farmers in the country.