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Title: Need to address the problems of Jute farmers and Jute mills in West Bengal.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): Sir, I thank you very much for calling me. Of course, I am going to read as per the rule. But if I may suggest that the spirit of the House has always been *extempore*. At some future date, if we can amend this rule and also start speaking *extempore* it will be fine because we are all public representatives.

I would like to draw the kind attention of Government, through you, Sir, towards the deteriorating condition of jute industry in West Bengal. Importance of jute industry in my State cannot be stressed enough, as it employs more than 2,14,714 people and accounts for nearly 79.57% of production in the country.

The Ministry of Textiles states that it provides MSP to encourage jute farming, however, the fact is that for the last 12 years, beginning 2001-02 to 2012-13, production of Jute in West Bengal has come down by nearly 7% highlighting that the present price system does not support the Jute farmers.

The jute mills in West Bengal are in dire straits. Five units of the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Limited., the Bird Jute & Exports Limited, and others have been declared sick during the last 10 years. Though 3 of them are now part of a revival scheme, they continue to function with a lot of losses.

Under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, the Government of India has consistently reduced the mandatory jute packaging provisions from 100 per cent for both food grains and sugar in 2011-12 to 90 per cent and 20 per cent respectively in 2013-14, citing inadequate supply.

Sir, 10 mills have shut down in West Bengal between 2010-11 and 2012-13 and newspaper reports state that 6 more mills have shut in the past two months. I request the Government to urgently look into this matter in order to support jute farmers and jute mills and prevent large scale unemployment. For this, I request you to change the provisions under JPM Act, 1987 for mandatory jute packaging for foodgrains and sugar to 100 per cent each.

HON. CHAIRPERSON :

Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav – not present.

Shri Jayadev Galla – not present.