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Title: Need to fix remunerative price of Jute and establish jute mills in Dhubri district of Assam.

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI): Assam has been producing 20% to 25% jute since the beginning of the 20th century. As a commercial crop, Jute has always been making great contribution to the economy of Assam. The State has produced 8,23,000 bales of raw jute in the year 2012-13. But the peasants are not getting the proper price of this crop. The jute mill in Silghat of Assam has been using only 2.5 per cent of the total jute produced in Assam. Though the Jute Corporation of Assam has been entrusted with the responsibility of purchasing jute from the peasants, it has been estimated that only 10 to 15 per cent of the total jute produced in Assam is being purchased by the Jute Corporation of India. So the peasants are to sell their raw-jute to the middlemen, who never pay proper price. On the other hand, the production cost has increased due to which the jute-producing peasants are not able to repay their loans and compelled to commit suicide. On October 10, 2011, while thousands of peasants were agitating in Bechimari of Darrang district demanding proper price of jute, police opened fire at them in which four peasants lost their lives and many got injured.

My submission before the House is that the Government should take steps to fix the proper price of jute crops and also consider the establishment of some jute mills in the State, including Dhubri district which produces about 30 per cent of the total jute production in Assam, especially in Mankachar sub-division of Dhubri, which is the highest jute producer in Dhubri.