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Title: Need to augment manpower in Jute Corporation of India.

*PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I had given my notice on Matter Under Rule 377 on the Jute Corporation of India. But the House is not in order. So, I will not read my matter. I am laying it on the Table of the House.

Jute Corporation of India was set up in early 70s to help jute farmers. The Ministry of Textiles is giving sufficient subsidy to the Jute Corporation of India (JCI), a public sector undertaking since the financial year 2014-15. Last season, JCI procured 28000 lakh MT of raw jute and made a profit of Rs. 2.5 crore. But it seems that this Corporation is dying a slow death, due to lack of manpower. Presently, there are 400 employees, but out of them 128 will retire and, therefore, there will be no personnel for manning the 56 DPC (Direct Procurement Centres). The Corporation can easily buy two to three lakhs MT of raw jute through commercial operations apart from Price Support Operation, only if it has manpower. The present management has no initiative in the matter. To meet the manpower shortage, either the government has to increase the retirement age from the present 58 years to 60 years, or to regularize the services of the existing contract employees or else to employ new people.

One of the reasons that many Jute mills have closed this year is unavailability and high prices of raw jute. Despite JCI having sufficient stock, it could not meet the demand. Now that the Textiles Ministry has decided to place 14.4 lakh bales for B Twill saving, a decision which is welcome, strengthening JCI at this juncture would be helpful.