

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2789
ANSWERED ON- 24/03/2023

ADVERSE IMPACT OF MANDATORY PACKAGING RULES

2789. MS. DOLA SEN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is cognizant of the effective increase in costs due to rules on mandatory packaging of agricultural products;
- (b) if so, whether there is any plan to ease the rules on mandatory packaging of agricultural products, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government acknowledges that the impact of mandatory packaging is leading to loss of competitiveness in the market due to its adverse impact on small scale producers who lack the resources and expertise; and
- (d) if so, steps taken to mitigate this and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SMT. DARSHANA JARDOSH)

(a) & (b): Considering that the jute industry is agro based, labour intensive and important for the economy of eastern and north-eastern region of the country and faces competition from synthetic substitutes, the Government enacted the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 to promote and protect the interests of production of raw jute and jute packaging material, and of persons engaged in the production thereof. Presently, the Act mandates Jute packaging of 100% food grains (paddy/rice and wheat) and 20% sugar. Jute packaging material is eco-friendly, bio-degradable and can be used multiple times.

(c) & (d): As per stipulations of the present Order issued under the JPM Act, different State Procurement Agencies including FCI, purchase jute bags from the composite jute mills. Hence, small scale producers are not impacted by the provision of the Act.
