

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*409
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2016

JUTE INDUSTRY

*409. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES वस्त्र मंत्री
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the miserable condition of producers, labourers and artisans engaged in jute industry, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of schemes/programmes drawn for the development of jute industry including welfare of jute workers;
- (c) the funds allocated, utilised and progress made in improving the quality of life of jute workers; and
- (d) the various steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to provide them sufficient marketing facilities for improving their living standards?

उत्तर

ANSWER

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्रीमती स्मृति जूबिन इरानी)

MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *409 TO BE ANSWERED ON
15.12.2016.**

(a): In order to assess the living conditions of jute workers, a study on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Jute Mill Workers was conducted in 2015-16 by National Jute Board (NJB). The findings of the study, inter alia, indicate that 96.4% workers have electricity in their houses; that 91% of the families have piped water supply; that 99% of the workers have access to toilets; and that the mill workers have health coverage under ESI.

(b) to (d): Government of India provides an assured market to the jute sector under the Jute Packaging Materials Act (JPM), 1987. Under this Act, Government has mandated that 90% of foodgrains and 20% of sugar be packed in jute bags. The annual subsidy for this amounts to Rs.5500 crore approximately. Apart from this, the National Jute Board (NJB) has been implementing several measures for the benefit of workers, artisans and small producers and for promotion of the jute industry. These include:

- (i). Workers' Welfare Scheme (Sulabh Sauchalaya)** for improvement of sanitation, health facilities and working conditions of jute mill workers.
- (ii). Incentives to Children of Jute Mill Workers** for extending support to the Workers' families towards education of their children through a scholarship scheme.
- (iii). Export Market Development Assistance Scheme** to facilitate registered manufacturer exporters of jute products to participate in international fairs and take business delegations abroad for export promotion of lifestyle and other diversified jute products
- (iv). Retail Outlet of Jute Diversified Products Scheme** for providing assistance to jute entrepreneurs for opening of outlets of jute lifestyle jute products in Metro Cities, State capitals, District Head Offices and Tourist spots; and
- (v). Focused Market Initiatives** for organising and participation in Jute Fairs, National Fairs / Regional Fairs, Export oriented fairs in India & abroad to extend marketing support to the artisans, small and micro entrepreneurs:

The details of the above initiatives and the funds utilised under the above schemes are given in the **ANNEXURE**.

Interventions by the National Jute Board during the last 3 years for Development of the Jute Industry and Welfare of Jute Workers:

(i) Workers' Welfare Scheme (Sulabh Sauchalaya)				
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Rs. Lakhs		305.84	194.33	249.46
No. of Toilet Blocks		17	13	12
No. of Mills		14	9	9
(ii) Incentives to Successful Children of Jute Mill Workers				
Support provided to 7546 children of Jute Mill workers for being successful in secondary and higher secondary examinations and also to successful graduate and post graduate children:				
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Rs. Lakhs		122.30	187.20	246.40
No. of Students		1674	2721	3151
(iii) Export Market Development Assistance Scheme				
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Rs. Lakhs		230.09	272.78	306.48
No. of Beneficiaries		61	51	63
(iv) Retail Outlet of Jute Diversified Products Scheme				
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Rs. Lakhs		84.78	71.11	94.75
No. of Outlets		10	11	20
(v) Focused Market Initiatives				
Sl.	Activity	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	No. of fairs	73	61	49
2.	No. of units which participated in the fairs	1211	898	682
3.	Expenditure	Rs.709 lakhs	Rs.551 lakhs	Rs.273 lakhs
