

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5434  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2017

MISERABLE CONDITION OF JUTE WORKERS

5434. SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN:

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

- (a) whether producers, labourers and artisans engaged in the Jute industry are in a miserable condition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of schemes/programmes launched for the development of Jute industry, including welfare of jute workers;
- (d) the funds allocated and utilized and progress made in improving the quality of life of jute workers during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to provide them with sufficient marketing facilities for improving their standards?

उत्तर

ANSWER

वस्त्र राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजय टम्टा)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES  
(SHRI AJAY TAMTA)

**(a) & (b):** 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.

**(c) to (e):** 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 purchase of jute sacking by Government Agencies amounts to Rs.5500 crores 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 and the current year for Development of the Jute Industry and Welfare of Jute Workers:**

<b>(i) Workers' Welfare Scheme (Sulabh Sauchalaya)</b>					
90% of the cost of construction of the sauchalaya is incentivized by NJB.					
	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17 (Feb. 2017)</b>	
<b>Rs. Lakhs</b>	305.84	194.33	249.46	96.76	
<b>No. of Toilet Blocks</b>	17	13	12	8	
<b>No. of Mills</b>	14	9	9	4	
<b>(ii) Incentives to Successful Children of Jute Mill Workers</b>					
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:					
	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17 (Feb. 2017)</b>	
<b>Rs. Lakhs</b>	122.30	187.20	246.40	54.20	
<b>No. of Students</b>	1674	2721	3151	722	
<b>(iii) Export Market Development Assistance Scheme</b>					
This scheme facilitates registered manufacturer exporters of jute products to participate in international fairs and business delegation abroad for export promotion of lifestyle and other diversified jute products by providing 50% of the space rent and travel cost.					
	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17 (Feb. 2017)</b>	
<b>Rs. Lakhs</b>	230.09	272.78	306.48	233.71	
<b>No. of Beneficiaries</b>	61	51	63	42	
<b>(iv) Retail Outlet of Jute Diversified Products Scheme</b>					
Provides assistance to jute entrepreneurs for opening of outlets of jute lifestyle jute products in Metro Cities, State Capitals, District Hospitals and Tourist spots.					
	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17 (Feb. 2017)</b>	
<b>Rs. Lakhs</b>	84.78	71.11	94.75	19.67	
<b>No. of Outlets</b>	10	11	20	13	
<b>(v) Focused Market Initiatives</b>					
NJB organises Jute week, Jute fairs etc. to extend marketing support to the artisans, small and micro entrepreneurs.					
<b>Sl.</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17 (Feb. 2017)</b>
1.	No. of fairs	73	61	49	57
2.	No. of units which participated in the fairs	1211	898	682	771
3.	Expenditure	Rs.709 lakhs	Rs.551 lakhs	Rs.273 lakhs	Rs. 361 lakhs
<b>(vi) Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Select Machinery</b>					
This scheme provides incentives for acquisition of plants and machinery for jute industry and jute diversified products manufacturing units .					
	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17 (Feb. 2017)</b>	
<b>Rs. Lakhs</b>	236.29	362.18	480.01	779.17	
<b>No. of Mills</b>	12	18	30	22	