

PLIGHT OF JUTE FARMERS

1678. PROF. SAUGATA ROY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the plight of jute farmers in the country especially in the State of West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect and safeguard the interest of the jute farmers in the country;
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to open more collection centres for their products; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to raise the minimum support price of jute and if so, the details thereof?

उत्तर

ANSWER

वस्त्र राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजय टम्टा)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI AJAY TAMTA)

(a) to (c): Yes Madam. The Government has been implementing various policy initiatives and schemes through National Jute Board (NJB) which includes Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Plant and Machinery (ISAPM), Jute I-CARE Project to support jute farmers, Export Market Development Assistance Scheme, Jute Raw Material Bank (JRMB) Scheme, Jute Integrated Development Scheme (JIDS), Retail Outlet of Jute Diversified Products and Bulk Supply Scheme, Skill Development Program etc. The Government provides support to the Jute sector by notifying norms for mandatory packaging of food grains and sugar in jute bags under the Jute Materials Packaging Act, 1987. These interventions are benefitting directly about 3.70 lakh jute workers and 40 lakh farm families across the country.

(d): The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has already opened 77 centres for procurement of Raw Jute. 13 Co-operatives have also been engaged in procurement operation. Based on need and requirement, procurement Centres can be opened by JCI.

(e): The Government has fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute and procures commercially viable quality of raw jute directly from the farmers through Jute Corporation of India (JCI). The MSP of TD-5 grade of raw jute is recommended by Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) taking into account various factors like cost of production, overall demand/supply situation, domestic and international prices. The Government has raised the MSP of jute from Rs. 3200/quintal in the year 2016-17 to Rs. 3500/quintal in 2017-18, a rise of 9.38% in comparison to previous year's price.
