

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *238
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27/12/2018

NORMS FOR MANDATORY PACKAGING

*238. SMT. BUTTA RENUKA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently extended the norms for Mandatory packaging in jute material;
- (b) if so, the details of the products that fall under the mandatory norms;
- (c) the action the Government proposes to take for their effective implementation; and
- (d) the number of Twine Mills which have resumed operations in country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

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
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(a): Yes Madam. The Government of India has extended the norms for mandatory packaging in jute material with effect from 30th November, 2018 (till 30th June, 2019) for the jute year 2018-19.

(b): The present order stipulates the following percentage of commodities to be packed in jute packaging material for Jute year 2018-19:

Commodity	Minimum percentage to be reserved for packaging in Jute
Foodgrains	100% of the production*
Sugar	20% of the production**

* Initially 10% of the indents for foodgrains would be placed through reverse auction on the GeM portal.

** In diversified jute bags under direct purchase by the procuring agencies from the mills or open market.

The level of reservation recommended by the Government in the past three years has been as follows:

Order date	Year	Sugar	Foodgrains
14.01.2016	2015-16	20%	90%
09.03.2018	2017-18	20%	90%
30.11.2018	2018-19	20%	100%

(c):

(i) For effective implementation of the above decision, Government has mandated that :-

- Procurement of jute bags for packing of foodgrains through the GeM portal shall be initiated on trial basis. To begin with, 10% of the indents shall be placed by the State Procurement Agencies (SPA) through reverse auction on the GeM portal. To the extent jute mills fail to supply through the GeM portal bidding within the permissible 30 days, the Ministry of Textiles will allow upfront dilution of mandatory packaging norm. Allocation formula for the Production-cum-Supply Orders (PCSOs) will be modified to incentivize participation of jute mills in the GeM portal.
- In case of any shortage or disruption in supply of jute packaging material or in other contingency/exigency, the Ministry of Textiles may, in consultation with the user Ministries concerned, relax these provisions further, up to a maximum of 30% of the production of foodgrains over and above the provisions.
- If the Procurement Agencies do not place indents for jute bags to pack foodgrains as per supply plan prepared by the Department of Food & Public Distribution and bunching of demand (indents) takes place then the jute mills will get reasonable additional time for the supply of jute bags. However, if the mills fail to supply the bags in the extended period, the conditions relating to dilution will be applicable.

- To ensure that persons engaged in production of raw jute & Jute Packaging material are benefitted from the mandatory packaging, a suitable mechanism will be devised for enabling payment of statutory dues to jute workers and prompt payment to jute farmers and balers on procurement of raw jute. The mechanism will include obtaining periodical certification from the Labour Department of the State Government concerned on statutory payments to workers and self-certification from the mills on prompt payment for raw jute supplies.

(ii) With effect from 1st November, 2016, activities for procurement of jute bags are performed by O/o Jute Commissioner, a subordinate office of this Ministry. O/o JC has developed an end-to-end web based platform for procurement, inspection and dispatch of jute bags which is transparent, rule based, simple to use.

(iii) For effective implementation of JPM Act, 1987; Central Government has also issued an Order dated 16th June, 2015 delegating powers under Sections 6, 7 and 8 of JPM Act, 1987 to District Magistrates or Collectors or Deputy Commissioners of all the Districts in India and Sub-Divisional Magistrates or Sub-Divisional Officers of all Sub-Divisions of all Districts in India. This Order also gives power to Jute Commissioner, Joint Secretary (Policy), Ministry of Food, Deputy Jute Commissioner, Deputy Directors of the O/o Jute Commissioner and Chief Director (Sugar).

(d): After the imposition of Anti-dumping duty w.e.f. 5.1.2017, an additional demand of 2 lakh Metric Tonnes has been generated in the domestic market for the jute industry, which has led to the reopening of more than 10 Jute Twine Mills located in Andhra Pradesh, benefitting 20,000 workmen directly and indirectly.
