

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3523
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th MARCH, 2021

IMPORT OF GUNNY BAGS

3523. SHRI SHANMUGA SUNDARAM K.:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- whether the Government is aware of the import of gunny bags from Bangladesh and Nepal whereas the Indian jute industry is facing problem in getting orders, if so, the facts thereof;
- whether the Ministry is having any report from the Jute Commissioner that the statutory packing order has been violated;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps taken by the Government for the revival of the jute industry and to prevent import of jute bags from other countries?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a): Yes, Sir. As per Government orders, 100% of food grains and 20% of sugar has to be compulsorily packed in jute bags for supply to Public Distribution System (PDS). Since the demand from the Government agencies outstrips the supply available in the domestic market, it is fulfilled through imports.

(b)& (c): No such report has been received from the Jute Commissioner.

(d): As under Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, every year, government specifies the commodities and the extent to which they are mandatorily required to be packed in jute packaging materials. This has given tremendous support to the jute industry over the last three decades. The level of reservations recommended by the Government in the last three years is furnished below:-

Order date	Year	Sugar	Food grains
09.03.2018	2017-18	20%	90%
30.11.2018	2018-19	20%	100%
20.12.2019	2019-20	20%	100%
26-11-2020	2020-21	20%	100%

In order to address injury caused by dumping of certain jute products, Ministry of Finance has imposed anti-dumping duty under Notification dated 5th January, 2017, on their imports from Nepal and Bangladesh.
