

Dumping of Jute Bags by Bangladesh

2286. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Jute Manufacturing Corporation (NJMC) has been losing about Rs. 200 crores annually, since it was nationalised;

(b) whether inspite of surplus stocks of the jute bags, Government continue to allow import of the same from Bangladesh;

(c) whether Bangladesh is dumping its surplus stocks in India, thus adversely affecting profitability of NJMC and other jute mills; and

(d) if so, what action Government are taking to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Most of the NJMC mills were incurring losses when they were taken under the Industry (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. The cash loss incurred by NJMC in the last 3 years is as under:

Year	Cash loss (Rs. in Lakhs)
1996-97	10221.00
1997-98	8324.00
1998-99	11295.00 (Provisional)

(b) to (d) The Government has allowed import of jute goods from Bangladesh under preferential import tariff scheme for SAARC countries at the reduced import tariff of 16% (60% reduction from normal tariff) plus 10% surcharge. However, the total import of jute goods from Bangladesh in comparison to the total domestic production is negligible as it is less than one percent. The reduction of import duty on jute goods from Bangladesh is therefore likely to have little impact on the Indian Jute Industry.

The Government is closely monitoring the situation in consultation with the O/o Jute Commissioner and Jute Manufacturers Development Council. The Government also reviews the Jute Licensing and Control Order, 1961 and import duty on raw jute from time to time to deal with the situation arising out of unrestricted import of jute goods.

Spinning Mills in Assam

2287. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of spinning mills in Assam;

(b) the number of persons working in these mills, district-wise;