

(c) what action Government has taken to protect the common carpet manufacturers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Due to world economic recession, there is decline in export of Handmade carpets and other floor coverings which has resulted in lesser production and lesser demand, leading to hardship for all stake holders concerned.

(c) Government has already placed Handmade Carpet industry under Focus Product Scheme and the Exporters are getting 5% Duty Credit Scrip on FOB Value of exports. Government also allowed 2% interest subvention on export credit. Government also providing 90% grant to the Handmade carpets being cottage based rural industry under Focus Product for organizing India Carpet Expo organized by Carpet export Promotion Council where the small and medium scale Manufacturers and Exporters are provided space on subsidized rates for displaying and marketing their products. The carpet belts of Srinagar and Mirzapur – Bhadoni have been selected for implementation of Mega Cluster Scheme for providing backward and forward linkages to the sector.

#### **Need to ban jute imports from Bangladesh and Nepal**

738. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian jute industry has drawn the attention of Jute Commissioner to the issue for effective steps to ban over the large scale import of jute goods from Bangladesh and Nepal;

(b) whether the Indian Jute Mills Association pointed out the figures of jute goods imports which stand 54,981 tonnes from Bangladesh and one lakh tonnes from Nepal;

(c) why Government has not taken up the problem in its proper perspective; and

(d) what is the present reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

The Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) has represented to the Government to impose a ban on the import of jute goods, which does not indicate any quantitative figure. However, the imports of jute goods are a miniscule proportion of domestic production. The imports during the year 2009-10 (till December 2009) were slightly higher compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, mainly due to the workers strike in the Jute mills from December 14, 2009 to February 13, 2010. The Government is not considering any ban on the import of jute goods as it would be counter productive for the economy.