

### Packaging in jute bags

1687. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether earlier cement and fertilizers were required to be packed in jute bags in addition to sugar and foodgrains to give a boost to the jute industry and jute growers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether cement and fertilizers have been exempted from compulsory jute packaging leaving only sugar and foodgrains for that;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether sugar industry is lobbying to be exempted from compulsory jute packaging;
- (f) if so, whether Government has assessed the adverse impact on the jute industry; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and Government's action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act), the Government is required to consider and provide for the compulsory use of jute packaging material in the supply and distribution of certain commodities. The first Order under section 3(1) of the JPM Act was issued on 29.05.1987 stipulating 100% of both foodgrains and sugar, 70% cement and 50% fertilizers required to be packed in jute packaging material. Thereafter, various orders were issued from time to time stipulating certain percentage of commodities to be packed in jute packaging material. However, cement sector was discontinued from the purview of JPM Act *vide* Order dated 15.12.1998, while fertilizer sector discontinued *vide* Order dated 01.09.2001. As on date, only foodgrains and sugar are packed in jute materials under the JPM Act.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Under the JPM Act, the Government is required to consider and provide for the compulsory use of jute packaging material in the supply and distribution of certain commodities in the interest of production of raw jute and jute packaging material and of persons engaged in the production thereof and for matters connected therewith. Section 4 of the JPM Act provides for the constitution of a Standing Advisory Committee (SAC), to recommend the commodity or class of commodities or percentage thereof to be packed in jute material. After taking into consideration the views of all the stakeholders, the SAC makes its recommendations. After considering the recommendations of the SAC, the Central Government issues appropriate orders for mandatory packaging of certain commodities in jute packaging material. SAC always

looks into all the relevant issues like availability of raw jute, capacity of jute industry, the likely demand of foodgrains, sugar and other such issues while making its recommendation.

**Reviving sick textile units under Public Sector**

1688. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to revive the sick textile units under Public Sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what is the present position of activities of Parvathy Mill in Kerala; and
- (d) whether any road map is made for its revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The revival scheme for National Textile Corporation (NTC) has been approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). 24 viable mills are approved for revival by NTC itself. Further, NTC has Joint Ventures with Private partners for revival of 5 mills.

(c) and (d) Parvathi Mills in Kerala, was slated for revival through the Joint venture (JV) route. The MoU with the JV partner was cancelled and the matter is now *sub-judice*.

**Delay in acquisition of land for NCDPD**

1689. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that even after ten years of approval, land for two Centres of National Centre for Design and Product Development (NCDPD) has not been acquired;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) when will the land be acquired at the earliest; and
- (d) where are the two centres functioning currently?

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

(b) and (c) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Moradabad Development Authority (MDA) did not allot the land for setting up of NCDPD Centres at New Delhi and Moradabad. In spite of all efforts and follow-ups made with the concerned authorities.

(d) Presently NCDPD at Delhi is functioning from Regional Design and Technical Development Centre (RDTDC), Okhla, New Delhi premises. The Moradabad centre had started functioning from July, 2000 on temporary basis in Moradabad Handicrafts Service Centre