

Dilution of compulsory use of jute packaging material

1646. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to reduce the compulsory use of jute packaging material in Sugar to 20 per cent compared to 40 per cent earlier;

(b) whether Government has decided to allow 30 per cent further discretionary dilution in use of jute packaging material in foodgrains;

(c) if so, whether such decision protects interests of persons engaged in production of raw jute and jute packaging material envisaged in Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use) Act; and

(d) whether in the Apex Court Government challenged recent Gujarat High Court Division Bench judgement confirming its 15th June, 2010 order; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. For the Jute Year 2013-14, minimum 20 percent of sugar would be compulsorily packed in jute packaging material. If sufficient quality of jute bags are available, even more than 20 percent of sugar could be packed in jute packaging material.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) As per the judgement of the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court (Double Bench) dated 15th June, 2010, the Hon'ble High Court has ruled that in determining the reservations under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act), the Government is required to conspicuously and religiously follow the provisions of the JPM Act, 1987 while taking a decision under the Act. As per the parameters prescribed in Section 4(2) of the JPM Act, 1987, the Government arrives at a decision on the percentage of certain essential commodities to be packed in the jute packaging material for a particular jute year. Since the judgement of the Hon'ble High Court is consistence with the JPM Act, there is no need for filing appeal in the Apex Court.