

Crisis in jute industry due to dilution of Jute Packaging Materials Act

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the House to the serious crisis that the jute industry is facing in our country involving around five lakh jute workers and around thirty-five to forty lakh jute growers, spread over in five States and mostly in my State, West Bengal. Sir, because of this crisis, the jute mills are seriously cutting down their production capacity utilisation directly leading to loss of employment. As a matter of fact, there are around 2.5 lakh jute workers in my State of West Bengal. At a given moment, the daily deployment on work is around 1,50,000. This clearly explains the depth of crisis. Sir, the situation is also affecting the jute growers. In my State, jute growers are compelled to make distress sale of their jute produce at ₹1,600 per quintal although the minimum support price is ₹2,400 per quintal. Jute Corporation of India is allowing to create a compelling situation for the jute growers by not procuring jute from them. The basic reason of the crisis is the consistent dilution of the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987 successively by the successive Governments; since 2008 onwards in particular. Finally, this Government has decided to put the final nail in the coffin of the Jute Packaging Materials Act by deciding to phase it out within next two years and on that ground, a Finance Ministry directive has been issued on 11th of November. And a meeting is going to be held today with the stakeholders to decide the roadmap of implementation of the decision of completely phasing out Jute Packaging Materials Act. ...*(Interruptions)*... The most shameful thing is that in the meeting of stakeholders, neither the workers, nor the jute growers, who are the biggest stakeholders involving forty lakh families in the country, are being called. Who are the stakeholders? Only जो चन्दा देता है? Are they the stakeholders? Not the workers who produce in the field and also in the jute mills and contribute to foreign exchange earning! Sir, despite dilution by successive Governments in 2008 even those reduced norms are not being followed by the sugar barons. There are concrete facts published by the Government. They are being allowed to violate even those reduced norms. How long will this continue, Sir? Added to this is 1.45 lakh tonne import of jute sacks annually in the country. This is further adding to the crisis. This import must stop. The concession given to them on import duty must stop.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your time-limit is over. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri P. Bhattacharya and Shri D. Bandyopadhyay may associate themselves with the mention. ...*(Interruptions)*... The names of other Members who want to associate themselves with the mention may be added. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. T.N. SEEMA (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार) : सर, मैं इस विषय के साथ एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I will take only one minute. A serious conspiracy is going on to finish the jute industry in the country. I demand an immediate statement from the Textile Minister. What is he doing in this matter?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri D. Bandyopadhyay, you just associate yourself with the mention.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Sir, I just want to state a couple of facts. Nothing more than that. West Bengal has ...(Interruptions)... hectares of jute ...(Interruptions)... It has a share of 96 per cent of jute exports.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is enough.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: We want that the jute industry should be given all the necessary support.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI MUKUL ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we associate ourselves with the mention made by the hon. Member.

Increase in rape cases in the country including the recent incident in Delhi

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, मैं इस सभागृह में आपके माध्यम से एक अत्यंत घृणास्पद एवं निंदनीय घटना के संबंध में अपनी बात रखना चाहती हूँ। दो-तीन दिन पहले दिल्ली