

(c) The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has forwarded the letter to the Ministry of Textiles for appropriate action by the Ministry which in turn has been forwarded to HHEC by the Ministry. HHEC has informed that as on date no margin money is blocked/pending for any small trader engaged with HHEC for import of Bullion.

Purchase of jute at MSP by JCI in West Bengal

1574. MS. DOLA SEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) why Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has been unable to buy raw jute in West Bengal at Minimum Support Price (MSP); and
- (b) what are the future plans of the Central Government to overcome this and to make it upto the mark, in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) No Sir. Jute Corporation of India (JCI), a PSU under this Ministry is doing MSP operation and purchasing raw jute of prescribed quality through 90 procurement centres, out of which 48 Departmental Purchase Centres and 13 Cooperative agencies are in West Bengal. So far, JCI has procured 354284 qntl of raw jute out of which 217896 qntl are from West Bengal and its procurement operation is still underway. Based on need & demand, further additional centres for procurement can be opened by JCI.

The Government of India is committed to the payment of MSP to the jute growers in India, by ensuring that the jute at MSP will be purchased by JCI wherever and whenever market price rules below MSP. The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) taking into account factors such as cost of production, overall demand/supply situation, domestic and international prices etc. recommends the MSP of raw jute of TD-5 for every jute season (July-June).

The Government has raised the MSP of jute from ₹ 3200/quintal in the year 2016-17 to ₹ 3500/quintal in 2017-18, a rise of 9.38% in comparison to previous year's price.

Improvement of economic condition of weavers

†1575. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to improve the economic conditions of weavers;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.