

Rejuvenation of jute industry in West Bengal

1233. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to rejuvenate the dying jute industry in West Bengal;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to address the issue of intense competition and cheap import from Bangladesh; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the jute balers receive timely payments from mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Government of India has taken several steps to rejuvenate the jute industry. A brief of these steps/actions are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Based on application filed by Indian Jute Mills Association before the Designated Authority, *i.e.* Director General, Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties for initiation of Anti-Dumping duty on the import of jute products originating in or exports from Bangladesh and Nepal, DG, Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties initiated investigation and accordingly, the Authority recommended definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of subject goods from Bangladesh and Nepal and Ministry of Finance has imposed the Anti-dumping duty under Notification dated 5th January, 2017 which has served to protect the interests of Indian Jute Industry and the persons engaged in the industry.

(c) Government of India has recently issued an Order *vide* S.O. No. 5878 (E) dated 30 November, 2018 under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory-Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 stipulating that 100% foodgrains and 20% sugar are required to be compulsorily packed in jute packaging material. The order further stipulates, among others, the following provisions as under:—

"To ensure that persons engaged in production of raw jute and Jute Packaging material are benefitted from the mandatory packaging, a suitable mechanism shall be devised for enabling payment of statutory dues to jute workers and prompt payment to jute farmers and balers on procurement of raw jute.

The mechanism referred to in paragraph 8 shall include obtaining periodical certification from the Labour Department of the State Government concerned on

statutory payments to workers and self-certification from the mills on prompt payment for raw jute supplies."

Accordingly, in order to implement the above stipulations, O/o Jute Commissioner has sent a proforma to jute mills for submitting undertaking that they will clear the outstanding an current dues to jute balers as well as to the workers the statutory dues within stipulated time. Labour Department of concerned State Governments have also been requested to provide information on mill-wise outstanding position of statutory dues including PF, ESI, Bonus etc. to the jute workers on monthly basis to O/o Jute Commissioner.

Statement

Details of steps taken by Government of India to rejuvenate the Jute industry

- (i) **Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in packing commodities) Act, 1987:-** Under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) [JPM Act], 1987, Government specifies the commodities and the extent to which they are mandatorily required to be packed in Jute Packaging Materials. At present, a minimum of 100% of food grains and a minimum of 20% of sugar are to be compulsorily packed in jute sacking. On an average, the annual Government support to jute industry on this account amounts to ₹6500 crores.
- (ii) **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute and Mesta:-** Minimum Support Price for raw jute and mesta is fixed every year to protect the interest of farmers. While fixing prices of different grades, the issue of discouraging production of lower grade jute and encouraging production of higher grades jute are taken into consideration so as to motivate farmers to produce higher grade jute.
- (iii) **Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Select Machinery:-** To increase the productivity of the jute machinery and make these efficient by replacing the old machines by new and technologically advanced machines, NJB has been implementing schemes for modernization of jute industry. During the Jute Technology Mission (2007-13), a scheme known as 'Acquisition of Plant and Machinery' (APM) (Capital subsidy) was instrumental in bringing in investment of more than ₹ 500 crore. Considering success of the JTM scheme, the Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Plant and Machinery was launched in 2013. The scheme in its present form is valid upto 31st March, 2020. A total fund of ₹ 50 crore has been provided by the Ministry of Textiles to NJB for three years (2017-18 to 2019-20).

- (iv) **On- Going Scheme for Jute Farmers: JUTE -ICARE** This pilot project launched in 2015 is aimed at addressing the difficulties faced by the jute cultivators by providing them certified seeds at subsidized rates, seed drills to facilitate line sowing, nail-weeders to carry out periodic weeding and by popularising several newly developed retting technologies under water limiting conditions. This has resulted in increased returns to jute farmers. Encouraged by the success of this pilot project, the project has been extended till 31st March, 2020. This Ministry has given a total of ₹ 45.35 crore grant to NJB for a period of three years (2017-18 to 2019-20).
- (v) Apart from this, the National Jute Board (NJB) has been implementing several measures for the benefit of workers, artisans and small producers and for promotion of the jute industry. These include:—
- (a) **Export Market Development Assistance Scheme** to facilitate registered manufacturer exporters of jute products to participate in international fairs and take business delegations abroad for export promotion of lifestyle and other diversified jute products.
 - (b) **Jute Integrated Development Scheme (JIDS)** aims at setting up local units and agencies at distant locations around the country through collaboration with bona-fide bodies to carry out various activities. JID agencies act as a facilitator for rendering the backward and forward linkages to the existing and potential entrepreneurs, imparting awareness and training at grass-root levels mainly on technology application and design/product development and disseminations. JID agencies are also a prime source for market facilitation to the Jute Diversified Products (JDP) units, SHGs, WSHGs, NGOs.
 - (c) **Jute Raw Material Bank (JRMB)** Scheme aims at accelerating the pace of JDP activities in the country by catering to the jute unorganised sector and the production units so that jute raw material is supplied to them regularly at economic rates *i.e.* mill gate price plus actual transportation cost, to help them manufacture high value products, both for domestic and international markets.
 - (d) **Retail Outlet of Jute Diversified Products Scheme** for providing assistance to jute entrepreneurs for opening of outlets of jute lifestyle jute products in Metro Cities, State capitals, District Head Offices and Tourist spots.

- (e) **Design Development Scheme - NJB Jute Design Cell at NID** for development of Jute Shopping Bags and Lifestyle Accessories has also been set up at the Innovative Centre for Natural Fibres (ICNF) of NID (National Institute of Design), Ahmedabad whose prime objective is to develop newer and innovative Products through design and technology intervention for value addition and better market at home and abroad. NID has already developed more than 100 woven, dyed, finished samples for jute lifestyle accessories and has showcased low cost jute carry bags as an alternative against plastic bags, collapsible Jute bags, etc. Jute bags, namely, fashion bags, Tote bags, foldable hand bags at various fairs, exhibitions in domestic and international markets.
- (f) **Focused Market Initiatives** for organising and participation in Jute Fairs, National Fairs/Regional Fairs, Export oriented fairs in India and abroad to extend marketing support to the artisans, small and micro entrepreneurs.
- (g) **Skill Development Programme** : Various Skill Development programmes are conducted for providing training on manufacture of jute diversified products to correctional homes like inmates of Tihar Jail, New Delhi, families/beneficiaries of the Delhi Police, Border Security Force (BSF) and other institutions. Many of the beneficiaries have started production and marketing of jute products with the support of NJB.
- (h) **Continuous Market Support** is provided to jute artisans, entrepreneurs, weavers, NGOs, Women Self Help Groups for selling, marketing and promotion of their products in India and abroad. The fairs organized by NJB are means of livelihood to these groups of people. Some of the prominent events among others were - IITF, Delhi; Surajkund Mela, Haryana; Tex Trends, Delhi; Taj Mahotsav; Lucknow Mahotsav; Shilpgram, Udaipur; Giftex, Mumbai; Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair, Greater Noida etc.
- (i) **Development and Promotion of Jute Diversified Products:-** Several steps have been taken for promoting better agronomic practices in jute farming, promotion of the Jute Diversified Products (JDPs) and their marketing, support for technological up-gradation of jute mills, etc.
- (j) **Subsidy Scheme for Distribution of Certified Seeds:-** This is a scheme for distributing certified jute seeds to the farmers. Certified jute seeds are being distributed at a subsidy of ₹ 40/kg under the scheme. The network of Jute

Corporation of India (JCI) is being utilised for implementation of the scheme. The scheme aims at improving the quality and productivity of raw jute and fetching better returns to the farmers.

Shut down/closed jute mills in West Bengal

1234. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise list of all the jute mills closed in the past four years;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to rejuvenate the dying jute industry in West Bengal;
- (c) the list of mills that have violated the jute control orders in past four years in West Bengal; and
- (d) the details of action taken by Government against the mills violating the jute control order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) The State-wise list of all the jute mills closed in the past few years is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The detailed steps taken by the Government to rejuvenate the dying jute industry in West Bengal are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The list of mills that have violated the jute control orders in past four years in West Bengal and the details of action taken against them are given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

State-wise list of all the jute mills closed in last few years

| | | | Period (April - March) | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|-------------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Sl. No. | Mills | State | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
| 1. | National | West Bengal | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| 2. | Khardah | West Bengal | | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| 3. | Kinnison | West Bengal | | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| 4. | Alexandra | West Bengal | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| 5. | Rbhm | Bihar | | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed |