

Open University (IGNOU) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to secure educational facilities for the weavers and their families. NIOS offers Secondary and Senior Secondary level education with specialized subjects on design, marketing, business development, etc. through distance learning mode for handloom weavers, whereas IGNOU offers continuing education programs through accessible and flexible learning opportunities relevant to the aspirations of handloom weavers and their children for career progression. Ministry of Textiles is providing reimbursement of 75% of the fee towards admission to NIOS/IGNOU courses in case of SC, ST, BPL, and Women learners belonging to handloom weavers' families.

A Statement showing funds released for implementation of above schemes in the last three years is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement

Statement showing scheme-wise funds released in the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	(₹ In crore)		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
		Funds released	Funds released	Funds released
1.	National Handloom Development Programme	133.96	153.56	135.05
2.	Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme	37.26	40.11	31.82
3.	Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme	18.61	26.56	24.98
4.	Yarn Supply Scheme	321.96	261.35	199.84
TOTAL		511.79	481.58	391.69

Closure of jute mills

1238. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of jute mills in various States including Odisha have been closed or are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for the revival of these closed mills?

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

As regards the reasons, it is intimated that these mills are closed primarily due to labour unrest, absenteeism and low productivity.

(c) The issue of re-opening of closed mills is a subject being handled by the respective States. However, to protect/revive the jute industries, Government of India has decided to continue Jute Packaging Material (compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 keeping in view the interest of raw jute growers and workers involved in the jute industry. This act has provided uninterrupted market for jute bags. In every month, different State Government Agencies purchase jute bags for packing foodgrains for distribution through PDS. On an average, a total quantity of 26 to 28 lakh bales of jute bags is purchased in a year. This purchase has taken care of almost 93% of the sacking capacity of the industry. As on date, there is no dearth of orders for purchase of B-Twill Jute Sacking on Government account from various jute mills within the scope and provisions of Jute and Jute Textiles Control Order, 2016.

Other initiatives to rejuvenate the jute industry are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

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

Sl. No.	Mills	State	Period (April - March)					
			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

Sl. No.	Mills	State	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
6.	Union	West Bengal	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
7.	Konarak	Odisha	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
8.	Anglo India	West Bengal			26-05-15 to 29-09-15			
9.	Alliance	West Bengal			05-05-15 to 25-05-15			
10.	Angus	West Bengal			30-11-15 to 03-02-16			
11.	Auckland	West Bengal				08-12-16 to 27-12-16	04-03-17 to 24-03-17	
12.	Soorah	West Bengal	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
13.	Delta	West Bengal	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed		
14.	Eastern	West Bengal						
15.	Gourepore	West Bengal	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
16.	Hastings	West Bengal			08-06-15 to 29-08-15			Closed
17.	Gondalpara	West Bengal			29-09-15 to 16-01-16			Closed
18.	India	West Bengal			12-12-15 to 20-03-16			Closed
19.	Hooghly	West Bengal			09-05-15 to 26-04-16	09-05-15 to 26-04-16		Closed
20.	Kamarhatty	West Bengal			28-02-15 to 23-05-15			

Sl. No.	Mills	State	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
21.	Kanoria	West Bengal				11.01.17 Still closed	Closed	Closed
22.	Naihati	West Bengal			08.05.15 to 8.7.17			
23.	North Brook	West Bengal			08.06.15 to 09.07.15			
24.	Tepcon	West Bengal				05.12.16 to 16.1.17		
25.	Victoria	West Bengal						
26.	Chitavalsha	Andhra Pradesh	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
27.	East Coast	Andhra Pradesh		Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
28.	Bobbili	Andhra Pradesh		Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
29.	Rameswara	Bihar			17-10-15 to 27-01-16		Closed	Closed
30.	JK Jute (U.P)	Uttar Pradesh	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
31.	Mohan (Chhatishgarh)	Chattisgarh	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
32.	Katihar	Bihar						
33.	Kanpur(U.P)	Uttar Pradesh	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
34.	Premchand	West Bengal						
35.	Gourishankar	West Bengal						
36.	Bharat	West Bengal		Closed	Closed	Closed		
37.	Tirupati	West Bengal		Closed	Closed			
38.	New Central	West Bengal			17-10-15 to 10-08-16	17-10-15 to 10-08-16		

Sl. No.	Mills	State	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
39.	Naffarchandra	West Bengal			Closed		01-05-15 to 08-17	
40.	Calcutta	West Bengal			Closed	Closed	13-04-15 to 31-08-17	
41.	H.S.B Agro	West Bengal			05-03-15 to 08-06-15			
42.	Shree Bajarang	Andhra Pradesh			Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
43.	Howrah	West Bengal			24-07-15 to 25-08-15			
44.	Aruna	Andhra Pradesh			Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
45.	A.P.Fifre	Andhra Pradesh			Closed	29-02-16 to 15-02-17		
46.	Keshava	Andhra Pradesh			10-11-15 to 16-04-16	10-11-15 to 16-04-16		
47.	Laxmi Ganapati	Andhra Pradesh			Closed	Closed		
48.	Champdany	West Bengal			Closed	26-03-16 to 16-09-16		
49.	Prabartak	West Bengal				26-04-16 to 07-08-16		
50.	Kaliaganj	West Bengal			29-06-15 to 02-09-15	07-01-17 to 24-04-17	07-01-17 to 24-04-17	
51.	Sarada	West Bengal				20-12-16 to 10-03-17		

Sl. No.	Mills	State	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
52.	Reliance	West Bengal			07-05-15 to 10-06-15			
53.	Kanknarrah	West Bengal			30-04-15 to 07-07-15			
54.	Jay Jute	West Bengal					Closed	Closed
55.	Nellimarla	Andhra Pradesh						Closed

Statement-II

Other initiatives to rejuvenate the jute industry

- (i) **Imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty:-** Government of India also imposed Anti-Dumping Duty to protect Indian Jute growers and farmers. 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. The Authority recommended definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of subject goods from Bangladesh and Nepal and Ministry of Finance imposed the Anti-dumping duty under Notification dated 5th January, 2017 to protect the interests of Indian Jute Industry and the persons engaged in the industry.

After the imposition of Anti-dumping duty *w.e.f.* 5.1.2017, an additional demand of 2 lakh Metric Tonnes has been generated in the domestic market for the jute industry, which has led to the reopening of more than 10 Jute Twine Mills located in Andhra Pradesh, benefitting 20,000 workmen directly and indirectly. Therefore, Anti-dumping duty has served to protect the interests of Indian Jute Industry and the persons engaged in the industry.

- (ii) **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.

- (iii) **Inclusion of jute products under Technical Textiles items:-** Recently, Directorate General of foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued a Notification dated 15th January, 2019 incorporating 207 items as Technical Textiles out of which 15 items are related with jute.
- (iv) **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.
- (v) **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 (JTM) (2007-2013), 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).
- (vi) **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).
- (vii) **Usage of Jute Geo-Textiles (JGT) in NER States:-** Jute geotextiles being technical textiles is an eco-compatible solution to crucial geotechnical problems such as Soil erosion, Consolidation of Soft Soil, Construction of Rural Roads and for agro-

textile applications. Continuous interactive awareness programmes have been organized with the Engineers and other stakeholders in various states including North East for increasing uses of jute geotextiles. The progress in application of jute geotextiles includes, 118 rural roads (approx. 900 K.Ms) under PMGSY, 36 flood embankments in West Bengal, 9 roads in UP (43 K.Ms) under constructions, 2 river embankments in Bihar under constructions, 1 road in Tamil Nadu (2.8 K.Ms) under PMGSY and Indian Railway used about 46 lakhs sq.mtrs. of JGT has strengthening embankment.

(viii) 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 N1D 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 Program: 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 utilized for implementation of the scheme. The scheme aims at improving the quality and productivity of raw jute and fetching better returns to the farmers.