

the interests of production of raw jute and jute packaging material, and of persons engaged in the production thereof, and for matters connected therewith. As per current provisions of the Act, it provides 100 per cent of foodgrains and 20 per cent of sugar to be compulsorily packed in jute bags.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing Jute and Allied fibres development programme under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in 9 major jute growing States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal from 2014-15 with an aim for enhancing production and productivity. Besides, National Jute Board (NJB), Ministry of textiles is also implementing a project Jute-ICARE (Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) from 2015-16 for enhancing jute cultivation.

In order to ensure remunerative prices for farmers, the Government of India declares Minimum Support Price (MSP) of jute every year. Jute Corporation of India (JCI) under Ministry of Textiles is the nodal agency of the Government for undertaking procurement of jute when prices of jute touch MSP or below MSP. The MSP of jute has been increased from ₹ 2400/ql. in 2014-15 to ₹ 3950/ql. in 2019-20.

Transferring new railway tracks to GRP

*281. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that new railway tracks have not been handed over to Government Railway Police (GRP); and

(b) if so, the steps which have been taken by Railway authorities to hand over the new railway lines to GRP in districts of Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) There is no procedure of handing over of new Railway track to Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police having jurisdiction. Once the Railway track becomes operational, intimation to all concerned including stakeholders of State Government is given for further necessary action at their end. It is on part of State Government to issue internal memo for inclusion of the new Railway track in the jurisdiction of GRP/District Police stations.

(b) The information about operation of newly constructed Railway sections of Angul-Sambalpur-Jakhapura-Keonjhar and Khurda Road-Nayagarh have been

informed to State Police of Odisha. Home Department of State Government of Odisha has already notified the newly constructed Railway line in the jurisdiction of Government Railway Police, Cuttack and Rourkela *vide* Notification No. 25th September, 2018 and Memo No. 41095/D&A, dated 25.09.2018.

Adverse effect of fertilizers on human health

*282. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of adverse effect of fertilizers on human health;
- (b) whether the Ministry has received any proposals to encourage bio-fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizers; and
- (c) if so, whether the Ministry has undertaken any impact study of the same, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) Balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers as per soil test based recommendation is promoted by Government through various programmes.

(b) Government has initiated a number of steps for encouraging/promoting the use of bio-fertilizers by providing incentives for production/procurement of bio-fertilizers under various schemes such as Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (C1SS) under Soil Health Management Scheme, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) etc. The details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) ICAR under "Network project on soil biodiversity-bio fertilizers" has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) study indicates that bio-fertilizers can improve crop yields by 10-25% and supplement costly chemical fertilizer (N. P.) by nearly 20-25% in most of crops when used along with the chemical fertilizers.