

BRIEF/BACKGROUND NOTE ON JUTE SECTOR

INDEX

Sl.No.	Subject	Page No.
1	The Jute and Jute Industry	2
2	Raw Jute Scenario	2-4
3	Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute and Mesta	4-5
4	Production of Jute Goods	5-6
5	Domestic Consumption of Jute Goods	6
6	Export Performance	6-7
7	Import of Raw Jute and Jute Goods	7
8	Regulatory Organizations in Jute Sector	7-15
9.	Incentives to Jute Sector	16-18
	Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in packing Commodities)Act, 1987	16-17
	Jute-smart	17
	Bhuwan jump	17
	ISAPM	17-18
10.	Support to raw jute farmers	18-20
	MSP	18
	Anti-Dumping Duty	18-19
	Jute-ICARE	19-20
11.	Ongoing schemes (a) workers welfare scheme (b) Scholarship to girl children	20
12.	On-going scheme for unorganized jute sector	20-23
	EMDA scheme	20-21
	Retail outlay scheme	21
	Design Development scheme	21
	JIDS	21
	JRMB Scheme	21
	Indexing of composite jute Mills	21-22
	Techno-Economic feasibility studies	22
	Usage of Jute Geo-tech in NER States	22
	Skill Development programme	22
	Continuous Market Support	22
13	Other issues	22-23

1. THE JUTE AND JUTE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The Jute industry occupies an important place in the national economy of India. It is one of the major industries in the eastern region, particularly in West Bengal. Jute, the golden fibre, meets all the standards for 'safe' packaging in view of being a natural, renewable, biodegradable and eco-friendly product. It is estimated that the jute industry provides direct employment to 0.37 million workers in organized mills and in diversified units including tertiary sector and allied activities and supports the livelihood of around 4.0 million farm families. In addition there are a large number of persons engaged in the trade of jute.

Jute, the golden fibre, meets all the standards for 'safe' packaging in view of being a natural, renewable, biodegradable and eco-friendly product. The principal varieties of jute in India are tossa (*Corchorus Olitorious*) and white jute (*Corchorus Capsularis*). Though jute plant is known principally for its versatile fibre, every part of the plant has its use. The tender leaves are cooked and consumed as vegetables. The leaves which fall off the plant enrich the soil, about 1 MT of dry matter is put back into the soil and about 3 MT of roots remain per acre of land. The stick which remains after jute fibre is extracted is used as a domestic fuel and also as a cheap building material. The plant itself has a very high carbon dioxide assimilation ability; in the 120 days of its growing period, an acre of jute absorbs about 6 MT of carbon dioxide from atmosphere and releases 4.4 MT of oxygen; several times higher than trees. Apart from the versatility of the jute plant, the plant compares very favourably in terms of its ecological footprint when compared with synthetic packaging materials.

As on 1st January 2018, the total number of looms installed in jute industry stood at 48322 consisting of 17478 Hessian looms, 25117 Sacking looms, 549 Carpet Backing Cloth (CBC) and others at 5178. The installed spindles in jute mills as on 01.01.2018, other than 100 % export oriented units, were 748612 comprising of 604496 fine spindles & 144116 coarse spindles. The maximum installed capacity in jute mills other than 100 % export oriented units (on the basis of 305 working days per year) is estimated to be 2755 thousand tonnes per annum.

As on 01.01.2018, there are 97 composite jute mills out of which the state of West Bengal has 71 jute mills with Andhra Pradesh having 12 mills, Uttar Pradesh 3 mills, Bihar 3 mills, Orissa 3 mills, Assam 2 mills, Chhattisgarh 2 mills and Tripura 1 Jute Mill. As on 20-03-2018, 19 mills are closed.

2. RAW JUTE SCENARIO

Raw jute crop is an important cash crop to the farmers. Cultivation of raw jute crop provides not only fibre which has industrial use, but jute stick which is used as fuel and building material by the farming community.

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There is always significant fluctuation in the area under jute cultivation in India. The year to year fluctuations arise out of three factors namely, (i) fluctuation in rainfall during the sowing season, (ii) the average raw jute prices realized during the previous jute season, and (iii) the returns realized from competing crops during the previous season. A significant area under jute competes with paddy during the same season. Hence, year to year fluctuations in the prices of jute relative to the prices of paddy would generally influence the relative allocation of land between the two crops.

Raw jute is produced mainly in the state of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura and Meghalaya. The following table will indicate the supply demand position of raw jute including mesta for the period from 2012-13 to 2017-18 (Estimated):-

Qty: in lakh bales

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (Estimated)
(A) SUPPLY						
i) Opening stock	31.00	29.00	24.00	14.00	6.00	22.00
ii) Jute and Mesta crop	93.00	90.00	72.00	65.00	92.00	85.00
iii) Import	9.00	1.00	1.00	6.00	4.00	5.00
Total :	133.00	120.00	97.00	85.00	102.00	112.00
(B) DISTRIBUTION						
iv) Mill consumption	94.00	86.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	75.00
v) Domestic/industrial consumption	10.00	10.00	12.00	9.00	10.00	10.00
vi) Export	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total:	104.00	96.00	82.00	79.00	80.00	85.00
(C) CLOSING STOCK	29.00	24.00	15.00	6.00	22.00	27.00

Source: Jute Advisory Board

The current varieties/grade composition of National Raw Jute Production vis-a-vis the targeted grade composition is given below:

Grade/Variety wise break-up							
Grade	Target of TD Grade	Currently produced					
		Tossa (78%)	White (10%)	Grades	Mesta (7%)	Grades	Bimli (5%)
1&2	3%	2%	1%				
3	12%	9%	5%				
4	35%	25%	15%	M2	2%	SMID	2%
5	33%	33%	28%	M3	10%	MID	10%
6	12%	16%	34%	M4	38%	BOT	38%
7	4%	11%	12%	M5	45%	BBOT	45%
8	1%	4%	5%	M6	5%	XBOT	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%		100%		100%

The above grade composition of raw jute is presently weighed in favour of grades lower than TD-4. With changing pattern of production of jute goods and greater emphasis on promotion of diversified jute products, production of grade 3 & 4 would need to be stepped up. For colour and quality of certain products, India still relies on imports from Bangladesh for production of diversified products.

3. 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.

Jute Corporation of India (JCI) is the Price Support Agency of the Govt. of India for jute. It was set up in 1971 primarily to protect the interest of the Jute Growers through procurement of Raw Jute under the MSP fixed by the Govt. of India from time to time and also to stabilize the raw jute market for the benefit of the jute farmers and the jute economy as a whole. JCI is conducting MSP operation as and when required. Raw jute is transacted in over 500 centres countywide. Raw jute purchased by JCI in association with the State Co-operatives during the last several years is given below:-

Raw jute procured by JCI/Coop.(Qty: In '000' Bales)					
Year (July-June)	Production	Procurement			Proc. as %age of prodn.
		Support	Comml.	Total	
2012-13	9300	319.0	0	319.0	3.4%
2013-14	9000	138.0	0	138.0	1.5%
2014-15	7200	15.5	0	15.5	0.2%
2015-16	6500	0	0	0	0
2016-17	9200	57.4	168.7	226.1	2.5%
2017-18 (July, 17- 8 th Apr, 18)	8500	304.0	0	304.0	3.5%

The minimum support price is fixed by the Govt. on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). As per CACP reports, while formulating the agricultural price policy CACP takes into account various factors such as cost of production, overall demand/supply situation, domestic and international prices and effect of minimum support price on general price level. CACP every year also conducts meetings of all stake holders to decide minimum support price. The MSP announced by Govt. of India during the last several years are given below:-

Year	MSP of TD-5 grade of raw jute Ex - Assam (Rs./Quintal)	%age increase over previous year
2012-13	2200	31.3
2013-14	2300	4.5
2014-15	2400	4.3
2015-16	2700*	12.5
2016-17	3200*	18.52
2017-18	3500*	9.38

* TDN3 basis instead of TD5 basis as per recommendation of CACP, Govt. of India from the crop year 2015-16 and no. of grades has been reduced from 8 grades (TD1-TD8) to 5 grades (TDN1 – TDN5).

The procurement of jute under MSP is contingent upon the prices prevailing in the market for raw jute at any point of time. In addition, it is often seen that it may be more remunerative for farmers to sell directly to traders/manufacturers as the price of raw jute is not just determined by input costs but also by demand for it. The comparison between MSP and market prices (TD-5 variety) is given below:

	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	MSP	Market Price	MSP	Market Price	MSP	Market Price	MSP	Market Price
July	2400	2636	2700	4179	3200	5621	3500	3405
Aug		2696		4033		3900		3487
Sept.		2709		4253		3893		3647
Oct.		2857		4508		3792		3542
Nov.		3011		4837		3889		3469
Dec.		3071		5070		3884		3431
Jan.		3158		5356		3808		3694
Feb.		3248		5373		3754		3911
Mar.		3252		5580		3739		3885
Apr.		3305		5717		3663		
May		3454		5813		3466		
June		4047		5816		3488		

4. PRODUCTION OF JUTE GOODS

India is the leading jute goods producing country in the world, accounting for about 70% of estimated world production. Bulk of the manufactured jute goods is predominantly being used in packaging purposes in domestic market. The trend in production of jute goods from last few years and current year is given below:-

Period April-March	Hessian	Sacking	Carpet Backing Cloth	Others	TOTAL
2011-12	239.9	1165.1	3.6	173.8	1582.4
2012-13	210.0	1218.2	2.9	160.3	1591.3
2013-14	202.5	1150.4	3.3	171.5	1527.7
2014-15	211.3	901.8	3.0	151.2	1267.3
2015-16	196.5	891.9	0.0	128.9	1217.3
2016-17	178.6	871.6	0.0	92.3	1142.5
2017-18 (upto Feb'18)	158.5	824.3	0.0	93.5	1076.3

5. DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF JUTE GOODS

India is the major producer of jute products in the world primarily due to its vast domestic market. Average domestic consumption out of total production has been around 90%. Trend in domestic consumption of jute goods for last few years and current year is given in the following Table:-

Qty:"000" M.T. Tonnes

April-March	Hessian	Sacking	C.B.C.	Others	Total
2010-11	182.3	1034.4	0.9	133.4	1351.5
2011-12	184.2	1079.7	0.1	117.9	1381.9
2012-13	165.8	1118.7	0.8	113.9	1399.0
2013-14	157.6	1043.1	0.4	126.4	1327.5
2014-15	171.7	873.2	0.1	111.4	1156.2
2015-16	164.2	890.2	0.0	90.2	1144.6
2016-17	140.9	855.9	0.0	78.9	1075.7
2017-18 (upto Feb'18)	130.6	805.3	0.0	69.3	1005.2

6. EXPORT PERFORMANCE

The Exports trends during the year 2014-15 to 2017-18 are as under:

(Quantity in '000' MT Value Rs. in Crores)

Quality	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18 (Apr-Nov)	
	Qty. ('000 MT)	Value (Rs. Cr)	Qty. ('000 MT)	Value (Rs. Cr)	Qty. ('000 MT)	Value (Rs. Cr)	Qty. ('000 MT)	Value (Rs. Cr)
Hessian	80.2	769.5	77.7	827.3	78.6	930.2	58.9	632.9
Sacking	46.9	296.6	38.7	307.5	46.6	411.9	31.7	290.9
Yarn	23.6	138.7	16.9	118.5	9.3	72.8	10.9	82.4
JDPs	0	508.6	0	562.3	0	590.9	0	399.3

Others	7.7	100.4	5.1	73.7	4.1	68.5	2.4	43.4
Total	161.7	1813.8	155.2	1889.4	155.1	2074.2	114.7	1449.1

Source: National Jute Board

7. IMPORT OF RAW JUTE AND JUTE GOODS

The Exports trends during the year 2014-15 to 2016-17 is as under:

(Quantity in'000'MT/Value in Rs Crores)

Year	Raw Jute			Jute Products			Total Import Qty. ('000 MT)	Total Import Value (Rs. Cr)
	Qty. ('000 MT)	Value (Rs. Cr)	Unit Value (Rs./ MT)	Qty. ('000 MT)	Value (Rs. Cr)	Unit Value (Rs./MT)		
2014-15	47.6	142.4	30487	130.7	561.5	43074	178.3	703.9
2015-16	87.6	364.0	41552	158.1	933.4	59038	245.7	1297.4
2016-17	138.9	704.2	50698	140.2	931.6	66448	279.1	1635.8

Source: National Jute Board

8. REGULATORY ORGANISATIONS IN JUTE SECTOR

(a) Subordinate Office under Ministry of Textiles

(i) Office of Jute Commissioner

The function and activities of the office of jute commissioner relate to (i) furnishing technical advice to the Ministry regarding policy matter formulation pertaining to jute industry including machinery development (ii) implementation of developmental activities through jute-related bodies of the Ministry of Textiles like National Jute Board (NJB) particularly for promotion of jute handicraft and jute hand-loom in decentralized sector and entrepreneurial skill in such sector and R&D programmes through Indian Jute Industries' Research Association (IJIRA) and other Textile Research Associations ,(iii) monitoring price behavior of both raw jute and jute goods and implementing Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation through Jute Corporation of India to ensure MSP prices to jute and mesta growers and (iv) market promotion, particularly for exploring markets of jute goods both in domestic and export market. Efforts are also being made to encourage/promote jute related activities in jute growing areas where such activities are inadequate and in-non jute growing states, including North East States. In exercise of the power vested under Section 4 of the Jute and Jute Textile Control Order, 2016, the Jute Commissioner issues Production Control Order (PCO) to jute mills for supply of B.Twill bags.

These bags are required for packaging food grains procured under MSP by different State food grain procuring agencies including FCI for distribution through PDS. The Jute Commissioner also keeps the Ministry informed of the problems and status of the jute sector on a regular and timely basis.

Following the promulgation of RTI Act 2005, this office has appointed a Central Public Information Officer. Deputy Jute Commissioner is the Appellate Authority. Various information is provided to different applicants under RTI Act. As per guidelines of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, an officer has been deputed to handle the /public/staff grievances in the office of the Jute Commissioner.

(b) Advisory Boards under Ministry of Textiles

(i) Jute Advisory Board

The Jute Advisory Board headed by Secretary (Textiles) advises the government generally on matters pertaining to jute falling within the purview of Jute and Jute Textiles Control Order-2016 including production estimates of jute and mesta. The Board was reconstituted on 15.06.2016 for a period of two years.

(c) Statutory Bodies under Ministry of Textiles

(i) National Jute Board

National Jute Board (NJB) has been constituted, as per National Jute Board Act, 2008 (12 of 2009), effective on and from 1st April, 2010 and erstwhile Jute Manufactures Development Council and National Centre for Jute Diversification got subsumed into National Jute Board (NJB). In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of Section 1 of the National Jute Board Act, 2008 (12 of 2009), the Government of India, Ministry of Textiles (Jute Division), vide Notification: F. No.3/6/2007-Jute dated 30th March, 2010 has appointed the 1st April, 2010 as the date on and from which the provisions of the National Jute Board Act, 2008 (12 of 2009) shall come into force. The NJB is statutorily mandated to undertake measures to:-

- evolve an integrated approach to jute cultivation in the matters of formulation of schemes, extension work, implementation and evaluation of schemes aimed at increasing the yield of jute and improving the quality thereon ;
- promote production of better quality raw jute;
- enhance productivity of raw jute;
- promote or undertake arrangements for better marketing and stabilisation of the prices of raw jute;
- promote standardization of raw jute and jute products;
- suggest norms of efficiency for jute industry with a view to eliminating waste, obtaining optimum production, improving quality and reducing costs;
- propagate information useful to the growers of raw jute and manufacturers of jute products;

- promote and undertake measures for quality control of raw jute and jute products;
- assist and encourage studies and research for improvement of processing, quality, techniques of grading and packaging; of raw jute;
- promote or undertake surveys or studies aimed at collection and formulation of statistics regarding raw jute and jute products;
- promote standardization of jute manufactures;
- promote the development of production of jute manufactures by increasing the efficiency and productivity of the jute industry;
- sponsor, assist, coordinate, encourage or undertake scientific, technological, economic and marketing research pertaining to the jute sector;
- maintain and improve existing markets and to develop new markets within the country and outside for jute manufactures and to devise marketing strategies in consonance with the demand for such manufactures in the domestic and international markets;
- sponsor, assist, coordinate or encourage scientific, technological and economic research in the matters related to materials, equipment, methods of production, product development including discovery and development of new materials, equipment and methods and improvements in those already in use in the jute industry;
- provide and create necessary infrastructural facilities and conditions conducive to the development of diversified jute products by way of assisting the entrepreneurs, artisans, craftsman, designers, manufacturers, exporters, non-Governmental agencies
- organize workshops, conferences, lectures, seminars, refresher courses and set up study groups and conduct training programmes for the purpose of promotion and development of jute and jute products;
- undertake research on jute seed to improve quality and to shorten the gestation period of jute crop;
- incorporate measure for sustainable Human Resource Development of the jute sector and to provide necessary funds for the same;
- modernization of jute sector and technology development;
- take steps to protect the interests of jute growers and workers and to promote their welfare by improving their livelihood avenues;
- secure better working conditions and provisions and improvement of amenities and incentives for workers engaged in the jute industry;
- register jute growers and manufacturers on optional basis;
- collect statistics with regard to jute and jute products for compilation and publication;
- subscribe to the share capital of or enter into any arrangement (whether by way of partnership, joint venture or any other manner) with any other body corporate for the purpose of promoting the jute sector or for promotion and marketing of jute and jute products in India and abroad.

(d) Public Sector Undertakings under Ministry of Textiles

(i) Jute Corporation of India (JCI) Ltd, Kolkata

JCI is a GoI enterprise set up in 1971. JCI is the official agency of the Ministry of Textiles (MoT) responsible for implementing the MSP policy for jute producers and serves as a stabilizing agency in the raw jute market. JCI also undertakes commercial operations, procuring jute at prices above the MSP on commercial consideration to generate profits. JCI's price support operations involve procuring raw jute from small and marginal farmers at MSP without any quantitative limit as and when the prevailing market price of jute falls below the MSP. These operations help create a notional buffer in the market by siphoning off excess supply, in order to arrest inter-seasonal and intra-seasonal fluctuations in raw jute prices. JCI's Departmental Purchase Centres (DPCs), which are situated in rural areas, purchases raw jute directly from the farmers. JCI has around 171 DPC's of which 101 are in West Bengal, 26 in Assam, 20 in Bihar and the rest in the three other jute growing states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tripura.

The authorized and paid up capital of the Corporation is Rs.5 Cr & the net worth is Rs. 107.73 Cr. as on 31.03.2016. The entire authorized capital has been subscribed by the Government of India.

Mission/Vision

To act as the Price Support Agency of the Govt. of India and to undertake Minimum Support Price (MSP) Operation to provide remunerative price of raw jute to the jute growers and gradually increase its market share in the domestic trade.

Main Functions

1. To take up Price Support Operation on behalf of the Government as and when the raw jute prices touch the level of the Minimum Support Price fixed by the Government of India without any quantitative limit.
2. To undertake commercial operations for jute mills of NJMC on for other purpose as and when required.
3. To undertake distribution of certified jute seeds under subsidy scheme of NJB and gradually increase the quantity with an objective to make available certified jut seeds to farmers.
4. To conduct other extension activities like, demonstration of new retting techniques and display of daily market rate by allocating centres under JTM MM III and NJB schemes for the benefit of the jute growers.
5. To carry out the role of the implementing Agency for Mini Mission III and also provide necessary support on activities of Mini Mission IV and other Mini Mission of the Jute Technology Mission.
6. To plan and implement schemes under Corporate Social Responsibility.

Performance of Jute Corporation of India Ltd is highlighted below:

Particulars Quantitative (Bales/Lakh):	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Projected (As per MoU) 2016-17
Procurement of Raw Jute	3.63	1.90	0.57	0.05	2.25
Sales of Raw Jute	2.40	2.60	1.46	0.20	0.71
Closing Stock	1.75	1.07	0.17	0.02	1.57
Financial (₹ / Lakh)					
Sale of Raw Jute	11135.58	12331.00	8027.07	1506.45	5097.70
Sale-Jute Seed	132.65	227.13	895.44	627.55	1214.17

(ii) National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd. (NJMC), Kolkata

National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd. (N.J.M.C.) was registered and / or incorporated on 3rd. June, 1980 as a wholly owned undertaking of the Government of India comprising of following 6 (six) Jute Mills viz National, Kinnison, Khardah, Alexandra, Union in West Bengal and Unit RBHM in Katihar, Bihar. The main objectives of the Company are to carry on business of manufacturing of Jute Goods (Sacking) for supply to food processing agencies of the Government. The Company was referred to BIFR in the year 1992 due to its continuous loss since inception and erosion of net worth. At the Ministry of Textiles BIFR has finally approved the revival proposal of the company in its meeting held on 31.03.2011 to run its three mills (Kinnison, Khardah in West Bengal and Unit: RBHM in Katihar, Bihar) by NJMC itself out of six jute mills in view of cabinet decision on March, 19th 2010 and 25th November 2010. The operations of these mills were suspended in the year 2003-04 and all the workers and staff was given VRS as per the sanctioned scheme prior to this year.

Mill with Location	Total Land (Acres)	Status
National—Sankrail, Howrah	63.34	closed
Alexandra—Jagaddal, North 24-Parganas	52.68	closed
Union—Sealdah, Kolkata	14.13	closed
Khardah—Titagarh, North 24-Parganas	86.56; Saleble-23.62	Suspension of work
Kinnison—Titagarh, North 24-	52.63; Saleable-2.43	Suspension of work

Parganas		
RBHM—Katihar, Bihar	55.05: Saleable-30.35	Suspension of work

- NJMC was declared as a sick company and referred to Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in 1993. BIFR vide Case No. 506 of 1993 framed a Scheme on 5th January 2011 for Revival of the sick PSU and sanctioned the Revival Plan of NJMC on 31st March 2011. The plan was prepared by IDBI, cleared by BRPSE, sanctioned by Govt. of India (CCEA) and finally approved by BIFR.

➤ **PROPOSAL FOR CLOSURE OF NJMC:**

(i). Considering that the jute mills, including those in the private sector, are heavily dependent on supply of jute sacking to Government agencies under the mandatory jute packaging guidelines issued under JPM Act 1987, it was deliberated that it may not be prudent to continue the operation of the NJMC jute mills.

(ii). Secondly, there are no staffs or officers on the payroll of NJMC except for the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD), NJMC as the rest were given VRS under the envisaged Revival Scheme of NJMC thus NJMC does not have the requisite managerial strength. Besides CMD, NJMC, there is all contractual staff managing the mills.

(iii). Thirdly, under the Revival Scheme, the company was given a sum of Rs 141.50 crores to cover cash losses during the operational period. This amount has already been used up.

(iv). In view of the above experiences, of the continuous operating losses incurred by the three NJMC mills, viz. Khardah, Kinnison and RBHM; NITI Ayog has provisionally identified it for closure which has been acceded to by the Ministry of Textiles.

(iii) Birds Jute & Exports Ltd. (BJEL), a subsidiary of NJMC

The company came into being in 1870 and was then named as Arathoon Jute Mills Ltd in 1904 name changed as Lansdowne Jute Mills Pvt Ltd and again the name of the Company was changed to Birds jute and Exports Limited (BJEL) in the year 1971, and it was decided to run as a processing unit for bleaching, dyeing & printing of Jute, cotton and blended fabrics.

BJEL was initially a subsidiary of Bird & Co Ltd. Following nationalization of Bird & Co Ltd on October 25, 1980, Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd (BPMEL) under Ministry of Heavy Industry took over the Assets of Bird & Co and BPMEL became a holder of 59% of BJEL's Equity Shares.

In 1986, GOI decided to transfer entire equity share holding of BPMEL in BJEL to National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd (NJMC). Accordingly, BJEL became a subsidiary of NJMC Ltd w.e.f November 20, 1986 and came under the administrative control of Ministry of Textiles (MOT).

The company filed reference with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) & was declared sick u/s 3(1)(0) of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) in the year 1999.

BIFR in its meeting held on 2.8.2012 had approved a Revival Scheme with a total cost of Rs.137.88 crore. The Draft Revival Scheme (DRS) was approved by BIFR with the following two riders:

- (i) An Asset Sales Committee (ASC) was to be formed where presence of Government of West Bengal representative was mandatory.
- (ii) BJEL to approach the Government of West Bengal for conversion of its present land use from "industrial" to "commercial".

Company is the owner of 52.7528 acres of land and out of this land a portion of 3.0749 acres of land acquired by Govt of West Bengal in the year 1962-63. since then the company is in possession of 49.6779 acres of land subject to the encroachment of land by outsiders. Initially it was decided that the total surplus land would be sold off and the revenue generated from this would be utilized for the revival of the organization. However the BIFR objected to this idea and directed the company to identify the minimum area of land that would be sufficient to generate the fund required (Rs. 137.88 crore) for revival. After a detailed survey it was found out that the required fund for revival could be generated by selling only 8.2 acres of land provided the land use is changed from industrial to commercial land. However, the issue of land conversion is still pending with the State Government. The Government of West Bengal, even after several requests, has not allowed BJEL to change its land use.

The BIFR had also directed to form an Asset Sale Committee in which a representative of State Government should be present. Even though the formation of Assets Sale Committee (ASC) took almost 3 years due to late nomination by State Government. But no BIFR hearing took place since 12th October 2015 as BIFR has practically stopped functioning since 28th October 2015. As a result, no asset, including the unserviceable machinery & scraps, could be sold resulting in further depreciation in their value. Theft of scrap and encroachment of BJEL Land is also a regular affair at the mill premises. Under these circumstances, the BJEL Board in the last meeting held 7th March 2016, has taken a decision of selling the scraps through MSTC Limited (formerly known as Metal Scrap Trading Corporation).

BJEL stopped production activities w.e.f. October 2002. All the workers were given VRS on 2003, Staffs on 2004 and Officers On 2011. Since then, the Company had no sales turnover till 2014-15. During 2014-15, the Company incurred a net loss of Rs.584.64 lakhs. BJEL has no factory under operation and has no permanent employees on its roll. Total 12 persons engaged on contractual basis, who are looking after day to day company affair. Owing to such a scenario, NITI Aayog forwarded the proposal of closure on July 12th, 2016 and thereafter, HMOT gave her in-principle approval regarding the closure of BJEL.

Reasons behind decision to close BJEL:-

- i) BJEL has been referred to BIFR, which is considering a Revival Scheme, and at present BJEL has no staff (all given VRS) and as there is no factory which is operation, closure may not have

serious adverse implications. The Jute Diversification Plan activities done by BJEL may be transferred to a SPV or a JV company floated by National Jute Board/Jute Corporation of India in PPP mode.

ii) The company has a huge land asset measuring approximately 49 acres in one of the prime locations in Kolkata. The area where the land is located is infested with anti-social elements and encroachments of mill land are a regular affair. The local municipality is itself involved in such incidents of illegal encroachment of government land.

(e) Other Organisations supported by Ministry of Textiles in Jute Sector

(i) Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA), Kolkata

Indian Jute Industries Research Association [IJIRA] was established in 1937, the first co-operative R & D organization rendering services to the Indian Jute Industry and Government Agencies who are promoting Indian Jute in export and domestic market. Beginning as Indian Jute Mills' Association Research Institution (IJMARI) in 1937, the institute has grown over the years and moved to its current imposing premises in 1952. In the year 1966, IJMARI was renamed IJIRA and registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961 as an autonomous cooperative research organization. IJIRA is one of its only kinds of research associations in India dealing with a fibre grown only in this part of the world and by virtue of this, it is unique.

IJIRA is headquartered in Kolkata, with its regional center at Guwahati (Assam). Guwahati Regional Centre also has the Powerloom Service Centre co-located with it. Since its inception, IJIRA has, over the years, grown into a world class research institute on jute. IJIRA is having 930 research publications and 127 patents on various process and products of jute and allied fibers.

Major Areas of Research are:

- Faster retting of jute plant and improvement in quality of jute fiber.
- Development of an eco-friendly substitute of JBO for jute processing.
- Biochemical softening of hard root cuttings of jute for better utilization.
- Value added chemicals from jute sticks and jute waste.
- Jute thermoplastic composites.
- Jute based sanitary napkin.
- Light fast bleached & dyed jute product development.
- Development of Aroma based home textiles.
- Development of Low Cost Jute Bags for Foodgrains .
- Quality Assurance for food grade jute products.
- Digital moisture meter for jute.
- Jute processing machinery development for improved production.

IJIRA has three decades of long experiences in the area of Jute Geotextiles (JGT) and acknowledging it, Ministry of Textiles has conferred the status of Centre of Excellence(CoE) to

IJIRA for Jute Geotextiles under the scheme "Promoting Usage of Geotechnical Textiles in North East Region". IJIRA is conducting Techno Economic Viability study for identified sites for JGT application, preparation of DPR and implementation in association with concerned state governments.

(ii) Institute of Jute Technology (IJT), Kolkata

The Institute of Jute Technology (IJT), was founded in 1951, by University of Calcutta and Indian Jute Mills' Association with the main object of imparting knowledge of jute technology and training of students, has since been running as an autonomous educational institute. In 2011, IJT was converted into a Technology Department of the University of Calcutta and named as the 'Department of Jute and Fibre Technology (DJFT), Institute of Jute Technology.

The main objective of this institute is to cater to the education and training to fulfill the HRD needs of jute and allied fibre sector for development of qualified technical manpower and training of mill personnel for the Indian jute mills. The Institute at present offers a regular 4-year B.Tech (Jute & Fiber Technology) Degree Course in line with the all India pattern for engineering degree courses. The degree is being awarded by the University of Calcutta. Institute has recently introduced a regular 8 semesters. M.Tech. Course in Textile Technology (Technical Textiles) has also been started. The institute also offers two regular short technician courses, popularly known as Junior Level Supervisory (JLS) courses, one on spinning and other on weaving, each with a duration of 3 months. These courses are meant for the persons working in jute mills in supervisory capacity for a long time but do not have any formal technical education.

The Institute not only organizes training programmes for Jute Mill Sector but also caters to the need for HRD of the decentralized jute sector which is gradually occupying an important role in the area of jute diversification. The Institute of also offers testing, inspection and technical services both to the centralised and decentralized sectors of the jute and allied Industries. The faculty members of the institute also carry out in-house and sponsored applied research projects.

(iii) Central Research Institute for Jute Allied Fibres (CRIJAF)

The following are the mandate of CRIJAF:

- Improvement of jute (*C. capsularis* and *C. olitorius*) and allied fibre crops like mesta (*H. cannabinus* and *H.sabdariffa*), sunnhemp, (*Crotalaria juncea*), rame (*Boehmerianivea*) sisal (*Agave sisalana*) and flax (*Linumusitatissimum*) for yield and quality.
- Improvement of jute and allied fibre crops for biotic and abiotic stresses.
- Development of economically viable and sustainable production technology and cropping systems with jute and allied fibre crops.
- Transfer of technology and human resource development in relation to jute and allied fibre crops.
- Development of proper post-harvest technology for improving the quality of fibre.

(iv) National Institute for Research in Jute and Fibre Technology (NIRJFT)

NIRJFT is under ICAR, Government of India devoted to technological research on jute & allied fibres. There are four full fledged divisions in the institute, namely, Quality Evaluation and

Improvement Division, Mechanical Processing Division, Chemical & Biochemical processing division and Transfer of Technology Division.

9. INCENTIVES TO JUTE SECTOR

(a) Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in packing commodities) Act, 1987

Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act) has been enacted to provide for the compulsory use of jute packaging material in the supply and distribution of certain commodities in the interests of production of raw jute and jute packaging material, and of persons engaged in the production thereof, and for matters connected therewith. Clause 4 (1) of the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 empowers the Central Government to constitute Standing Advisory Committee consisting of such persons as have, in the opinion of that Government, the necessary expertise to give advice in the matter for determining the commodity or class of commodities or percentages thereof in respect of which jute packaging material shall be used in their packing.

Central Government after considering the recommendations of SAC, may from time to time, issue orders under section 3(1) of the JPM Act for compulsory use of jute packaging material or certain commodity or class of commodities or percentages thereof, if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in the interest of production of raw jute and jute packaging material. Based upon the demand & supply position of raw jute and jute Goods, the Government prescribes reservation of commodities to be packed in Jute. The Government attempts to provide as much reservation as possible to utilize the jute crop that is produced in the country, without creating the bottle-neck in the supply-distribution chain of the commodities. The present Order stipulates the following percentage of commodities to be packed in jute packaging material for jute year 2017-18 :-

Commodity	Percentage
Foodgrains	90% *
Sugar	20% of the production

* The indent for the whole requirement shall be placed for jute bags in a single requisition and in case jute mills are not able to provide jute bags as per requisition, then the Department of Food and Public Distribution may allow dilution of the packaging material upto ten per cent.

The above Notification is valid upto 30/06/2018.

The level of reservation recommended by the Government in the past few years has been as follows:-

Mandatory Jute Packaging Orders issued under JPM Act, 1987			
Order date	Year	Sugar	Foodgrains
22-09-2009	2009-10	100%	100%
27-08-2010	2010-11	100%	100%

17-01-2012	2011-12	100%	100%
31.10.2012	2012-13	40%	90%
31.01.2014	2013-14	20%	90%
14.01.2016	2015-16	20%	90%
09.03.2018	2017-18	20%	90%

(b) JUTE-SMART, an e-Governance Initiative for Procurement of B-Twill Sacking has been launched in November, 2016.

A decision was taken on 03rd August 2016 by the CCEA stating that the entire activities performed by DGS&D for procurement of jute bags are to be performed by the office of the Jute Commissioner w.e.f 1st November 2016.

As per the decision of CCEA, office of the Jute Commissioner has undertaken the entire work of the three wings of DGS&D (Supply, Inspection & Payment) from the month of November, 2016. In order to carry out the entire work smoothly, this office has developed an end-to-end web-based platform for procurement, inspection and dispatch of jute bags which is transparent, rule based, simple to use and real time.

At present the JUTE-SMART software has become operational and indents for a total quantity of around 38.5 lakh bales worth Rs.9.3 thousand crores (approx.) have already been placed through JUTE-SMART from the month of November, 2016 to March, 2018.

(c) Bhuvan Jump project with ISRO:

ISRO in consultation with JCI has developed a satellite based application for assessment of jute crop. The system consists of an Android based mobile application for capturing geo-tagged data, both picture and status of jute crop from the field and uploading the data to the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) server. In this current crop season 2016-17, till date, 1811 numbers of field data had been sent to ISRO server, based on the field data sent by JCI officials from different jute growing states. Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (MNCFC) alongwith ISRO submitted jute cultivation area for 2016 through Ministry of Agriculture as 7.06 lakh hectare and production of 103 lakh bale jute as declared on 15.7.2016. NRSC-ISRO, Hyderabad has also confirmed about 75% accuracy of the above data for the current crop season.

(d) Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Select Machinery:

To increase the productivity of the jute machinery and make them efficient by replacing the old machines by new and technologically advanced machines, NJB has been implementing schemes for modernization of jute industry for quite a long time. During the Jute Technology Mission (2007-2013) the scheme known as Acquisition of Plant and Machinery (APM) (Capital subsidy) scheme was instrumental in bringing in investment of more than Rs. 500 crores. Considering its success of the JTM scheme, the ISAPM scheme was launched in 2013. The scheme in its present form is valid upto 31st March, 2020. A total fund of Rs.50 crores has been provided by the Ministry of Textiles to NJB for three years (2017-18 to 2019-20). During 2014-15 to 2016-17, capital subsidy amounting to Rs. 2577.46 lakhs to 100 jute mills has been released.

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (upto 15 th Mar'18)
Rs. Lakhs	362.18	480.01	1735.27	1017.31
No. of Mills	18	30	52	39

10. SUPPORT TO RAW JUTE FARMERS -

(a) 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.

(b) IMPORTS OF JUTE GOODS FROM NEPAL AND BANGLADESH

It is reported that there is large scale import of cheap yarn, B-Twill fabric and sacking from Bangladesh and Nepal which is seriously distorting the Indian market. The policies followed by the Bangladesh government such as certain inherent cost advantages in, lower wages and lower power tariff alongwith the export subsidy of 10% for jute goods (7.5% on yarn) makes Bangladesh out-price India in all foreign markets. Further, in India, a zero duty import of jute goods from Bangladesh meant that the imports are steadily replacing India jute goods from the Indian market. The Cattle feed and poultry industry, big consumers of jute sacking were believed to have shifted entirely to exports. The twine mills in Andhra Pradesh had also closed due to cheap imports from Bangladesh.

It has been observed that due to cheaper value in imported jute bags, a large quantity of such bags is being imported into India without any branding/ marking/ printing clandestinely and the same is being used in the foodgrains and sugar sectors. Accordingly, in accordance with powers vested in him under the Jute & Jute Textiles Control Order, 2000; Jute Commissioner had issued a Notification bearing No. 698 (E) dated 04-07-2002 directing all Manufacturers, Importers, Processors and traders to mark/ print/ brand certain words on the items of jute and jute textiles. In case of import of jute bags, the words "Bag made in - Country of Origin" are required to be marked/ printed/ branded. The Objective of issuing this Notification is to ensure that imported jute bags are not used in the foodgrains and sugar sectors till the stipulated percentage of commodities are packed in jute bags.

The Indian Jute Mills Association accordingly, filed an application before the Designated Authority i.e. DG, Anti-Dumping for initiation of Anti-Dumping duty on the import of jute products originating in or exports from Bangladesh and Nepal. The DG, Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties initiated investigation under Notification dated 21.10.2015. After investigation, DG, Anti-Dumping concluded, under order dated 20.10.2016, that "there is dumping of subject

goods from the subject countries; that imports from subject countries are undercutting and suppressing the prices of the domestic industry; that performance of domestic industry has deteriorated in terms of profitability, return on investments and cash flow; and that injury to domestic industry has been caused by dumped imports". Accordingly, 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.

After the imposition of Anti-dumping duty w.e.f. 5.1.2017, an additional demand of 2 lakh Metric Tonnes were 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, it is considered that the Anti-dumping duty has served to protect the interests of Indian Jute Industry and the persons engaged in the industry. If there is no anti-dumping duty on imports from Bangladesh, Bangladesh Jute goods could completely replace Jute goods produced in India.

(c) On- Going Scheme for Jute Farmers: JUTE -ICARE

NJB has been implementing a project Jute-ICARE (Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) for the last two years in a phased manner. The project is being implemented by NJB in association with Jute Corporation of India Ltd. (JCI) and Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres, (CRIJAF), Ministry of Agriculture. The details of Jute-ICARE Project for the year 2015 (ICARE-I), 2016 (ICARE-II), ICARE-III in 2017 & proposal for ICARE-IV (estimated) are given below.

Particulars		ICARE-I (2015)	ICARE-II (2016)	ICARE-III (2017)	ICARE-IV (2018 (ESTIMATED))
1	No. of Jute growing block / state covered	4 Blocks under W.B & Assam	14 Blocks under W.B, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, A.P & Meghalaya	30 Blocks under W.B, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, A.P & Meghalaya	75 Blocks under W.B, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, A.P & Meghalaya
2	Land covered(Ha)	12331	26264	70628 hectare	98897
3	No. of farmers covered	21548	41616	102372	187340
4	Certified seed provided (in MT)	64 MT	160 MT	500 MT	900
5	Seed drill machine	350 Nos.	350 (old) + 350 New = 700	700 (old) + 500 New = 1200	750 (new)
6	Nail Weeder machine	500 Nos.	500 (old) + 200 New = 700	700 (old) + 500 New = 1200	750 (new)
7	CRIJAF SONA	83 MT	273 MT	206 MT	750
8	SMS sent to each farmers	46 sets of SMS (Nos. 673000)	52 sets of SMS (Nos. 862000)	55 sets of SMS	60
9	Sowing & Retting demo	50 Nos.	132 Nos.	More than 200 Nos.	250

Encouraged by the success of this pilot project, the project has been extended till 31st March, 2020. This Ministry has given a total of Rs. 45.35 crores grant to NJB for a period of three years (2017-18 to 2019-20).

11.0 ONGOING SCHEME FOR JUTE MILL / MSMEs' WORKERS & WORKERS' FAMILY

(a) Workers' Welfare Scheme (Sulabh Sauchalaya):

NJB provides assistance to the jute mills for improvement of sanitation, health facilities and working conditions of jute mill workers. The rate of assistance is @90% of actual expenses subject to maximum of Rs. 40.00 lakh (per mill / annum). Under this scheme, 39 Toilet Blocks have been constructed in 27 Jute Mills from 2014-15 to 2016-17.

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (Upto Mar'18 approx)
Amount Spent (Rs. Lakhs)	194.33	249.46	274.13	280.47
No. of Toilets Made	13	12	14	18
Nos. of Mills covered	9	9	9	14

(b) Incentives to Successful Girl children of workers' of Jute Mills / MSMEs:

Support is provided to children students of Jute Mill workers for being successful in secondary and higher secondary examinations. NJB provides incentives to successful children of Jute Mill workers in secondary and higher education. Scholarship worth Rs. 788.34 lakhs have been given to 10,214 students of Jute Mill workers for being successful in secondary and higher secondary examinations from 2014-15 to 2016-17.

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (upto Mar'18 approx)
Amount Spent (Rs. Lakhs)	187.20	246.40	354.74	292.59
No. of Students	2721	3151	4442	843

12.0 INITIATIVES / ON-GOING SCHEMES FOR UNORGANIZED / DECENTRALIZED JUTE SECTOR

(a) Export Market Development Assistance Scheme-

The Export Market Development Assistance (EMDA) Scheme facilitates registered manufacturers and exporters of jute products to participate in international fairs and business

delegation abroad for export promotion of lifestyle and other JDPs. During 2014-15 to 2016-17, financial support amounting to Rs. 1007.38 lakhs to 187 exporters/entrepreneurs has been provided under this scheme.

(b) Retail Outlet of Jute Diversified Products and Bulk Supply Scheme-

Retail Outlet scheme supports supply chain and bulk supply of JDPs for selective and mass consumption. During 2014-15 to 2016-17, an amount of Rs. 260.62 lakhs have been provided to 56 beneficiaries/entrepreneurs under this scheme.

(c) Design Development Scheme - NJB Jute Design Cell at NID:

A Jute Design Cell 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, Tote Bags, Foldable hand bags (natural & dyed) has been awarded India Design Mark (I Mark), 2017.

(d) Jute Integrated Development Scheme (JIDS) –

JID Scheme 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 will also 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 will also be a prime source for market facilitation to the Jute Diversified Products (JDP) units, SHGs, WSHGs, NGOs. Thus help creating and sustaining the production units thereby generating employment to thousands of people in the rural areas through entrepreneurship development and the setting up of Self Help Groups, particularly Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs).

(e) Jute Raw Material Bank (JRMB) Scheme –

This 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. This is a sustainable process to increase production base for JDPs and to provide employments to rural masses particularly the women for which competent organizations/agencies having backward and forward linkages. The JRMBs act as a complement to the training & skill development efforts being made by the JIDSs in their respective regions to develop new WSHGs, artisans & entrepreneurs in addition to serving the existing WSHGs, artisans & entrepreneurs.

(f) Indexing of Composite Jute Mills-

NJB has conducted a detailed study in 67 Jute mills to ascertain the health performances of the workers working in the existing noise, dust, illumination etc. in the Jute Mills. The outcomes of the Study have been disseminated to 67 Jute Mills for taking cognizance of the recommendations of the Study and for initiating suitable remedial proposal/action for the same.

(g) Techno-Economic Feasibility Studies-

Techno Economic Feasibility Studies have been undertaken by NJB for 15 R&D projects implemented under JTM. The feasibility reports have been dissemination to the jute mills and the prospective and existing entrepreneurs. One of the major outcomes of the feasibility report is the development of low cost sanitary napkins with the use of jute pulp for menstrual hygiene of women and girls. NJB has funded a project to IJIRA under which automatic and semi-automatic machines for manufacturing jute sanitary napkins have been developed.

(h) Usage of Jute Geo-Textiles in NER States:-

This scheme has been initiated to promote usage of Jute geo-Textiles in North Eastern regions with outlay of Rs.427 crores on 24.3.2015 for five years (2014-15 to 2018-19).

(i) Skill Development Program -

Various Skill Development program were 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 and other institutions. Many of the beneficiaries have started production and marketing of jute products with the support of NJB.

(j) Continuous Market Support-

Under this scheme market support is provided to jute artisans, entrepreneurs, weavers, NGOs, Women Self Help Groups (WSHG) 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, Tex Trends, Delhi, Taj Mahotsav, Lucknow Mahotsav, Shilpgram Udaipur, Giftex, Mumbai, Indian Handicrafts and gift fair, Greater Noida etc.

13. Issues taken up with Other Ministries/Departments and State Governments through various communications.

- (i) As the jute industry is predominantly located in West Bengal, through various communications, the Ministry of Textiles has taken up the following issues with the Chief Secretary/Chief Minister of government of West Bengal
- Effective implementation of Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987 (JPM Act) for the packaging of rice and paddy, in Bengal to generate additional demand for jute products. Introduce mandatory packing of potatoes and other vegetables in the state in jute hessian bags.
 - Promote use of jute as geo-textiles in PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY) roads, district roads and State Highways, in river embankments and in slop stabilization.

- Evolve better agronomic practices in cultivation of jute.
 - Extend support from Government of West Bengal for support on the sale of surplus assets including land and with Ministry of Labour for formal closure of the Mills. In interim period, options are being explored to operate the running mills with profitability and for identifying appropriate modules for monetizing the land assets.
 - Extend support of the Government of West Bengal changing land use nature from industrial to commercial. So far the state government has not responded.
 - Extend support of Govt. of West Bengal for effective promotion and implementation of Jute I CARE
 - Support of Govt. of West Bengal in ensuring that jute mills are not selling jute sacking in private markets so as to avert any adverse effect on the planned supply to Govt. Agencies
 - Support of Govt. of West Bengal has been sought for ensuring timely payment of statutory dues such as EPF, ESI and Gratuity etc. to the jute mill workers in various private jute mills.
- (ii) Railway Board has been requested to consider using jute geo-textile on larger scale for the stabilization of slopes and other uses in the railway construction.
- (iii) All State Governments has been requested to promote use of jute as geo-textiles in PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY) roads, district roads and State Highways, in river embankments and in slop stabilization.
- (iv) Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Rural Development has been requested to organize a workshop on use of jute as geo-textiles in various projects under their respective Ministries. Ministry of Water Resource has informed that Central Board of Irrigation and Power has organized workshop/training on use of geo-textiles materials in infrastructural project and have come up with a compendium on geo-textiles and geo-synthetics.
- (v) Several review meetings at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Textiles and Secretary (Textiles) were held for the development and promotion of jute industry.
- (vi) State Governments of Meghalaya, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Assam, Bihar & Nagaland have been requested to promote and implement Jute ICARE scheme in their states.
- (vii) Minister of Urban Development and Minister of Road Transport & Highways have also been requested to extend necessary support in framing suitable policy for promoting use of JGT in construction of roads and protection of embankments and for using at landfill sites.
- (viii) Two meetings were held jointly under the chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister of Textiles and Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on 5th January, 2017 & 22nd March, 2017. The meeting of 22nd March, 2017 was also attended by the representatives of jute growing States. Based on the decision in the meetings the States were requested to adopt the model of Jute- ICARE. MoU has also been signed between National Seeds Corporation Ltd. (NSCL) and Jute Corporation of India Ltd. (JCI) regarding promotion of usage of jute certified seeds by Indian farmers. Hon'ble Minister of Textiles has also requested the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of all jute growing states for extending the support of the State machinery for the effective implementation of the Jute I-Care Scheme.

Source: Fibre-III(Jute)

As on:26th April 2018