

Jute Industry in India

This is the second important textile industry of India after cotton textile industry. This industry existed in Bengal as handloom industry but the large-scale industry started in 1855 at Rishra, near Kolkata. In 1859, the first powerlooms were started in the same mill and the spinning as well as weaving was undertaken.

It was an export-oriented industry and it made rapid progress. The number of jute mills increased from 24 in 1884 to 76 in 1918-19 and to 112 in 1947. This industry suffered a great setback as a result of partition of the country in 1947 because 81 per cent of the jute output went to Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan) while 102 out of 112 jute mills remained in India. Consequently, acute shortage of raw jute was felt in India because we could not get the same from Bangladesh due to our political differences with that country.

National Jute Policy

The government of India announced its First National Jute Policy in April 2005 to facilitate the Sector to attain and sustain a pre-eminent global standing in the manufacture and export of Jute products by enabling the Jute Industry to build world class state-of-the-art manufacturing capabilities, and strengthen research and development activities, through public private initiative, and ensure remunerative prices to the farmers.

National Jute Board

The National Jute Board Act, 2008 received the assent of the President on the February 2009 and was published in the Gazette of India on February 12, 2009. The Act provides for the establishment of the National Jute Board for the development of cultivation, manufacture and marketing of jute and jute products and for matters connected. The National Jute Board (NJB) is the apex body for promotion of Indian Jute. The Headquarters of the National Jute Board are in Kolkata, with regional representations in Jute growing areas and in other areas for marketing of the Jute Products. The Jute Manufactures Development Council was constituted as a statutory body in 1984 and now has been merged with the National Jute Board.

International Jute Study Group

The International Jute Study Group (IJSG) is an intergovernmental body set up under the aegis of UNCTAD to function as the International Commodity Body (ICB) for Jute, Kenaf and other Allied Fibres. Its headquarters are located at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Jute Technology Mission (JTM)

Jute Technology Mission (JTM) was approved by the government of **India in 2006** and it has 4 mini Missions. The Jute Technology Mission (JTM) will be executed during the XIth five year Plan with an overall outlay of Rs. 355.56 crore. The Objectives of the JTM are as follows:

- To strengthen agricultural research and technology achievements
- Development/extension of raw jute Ministry of and transfer of improved technology
- To develop efficient market linkages Ministry of for raw jute
- To modernize, technologically upgrade, improve productivity, Textiles diversify and develop human resource for the jute industry

Major problems of Indian Jute Industries :

Problem of raw material-Mostly **industries** in west Bengal faced the **problem** of shortage of raw material. **Problem** of power-low power supply and load shedding is also faced by these **industries**. Stiff competition in international markets from synthetic substitutes.