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Jute sector must modernise, diversify to reduce govt depen Union min

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Kolkata, Nov 12 (PTI) Union minister Darshana Vikram Jardosh on Saturday said the jute industry has to modernise and diversify its products range to reduce reliance on government purchase of gunny bags.

Speaking on the sidelines of a Bharat Chamber of Commerce event here, the minister said, "A lot has to be done for the jute industry. There is neglect in textiles and railways said, "A lot has to be done for the jute industry. There is neglect in addition and the sector is dependent on government procurement. Modernisation and diversification of products is essential for the sector to become sustainable sans government support." A major portion of the Rs 10,000 crore sector is dependent on jute bags purchased by government for storage of foodgrains and other essential items.

The sector employs around 2.5 lakh workers and around 30 lakh jute growers depend on it for livelihood.

In response to a question, the minister said the jute and handicrafts industries require government's support, and cited the example of Assam government coming for support for production.

However, she did not elaborate on the assistance her ministry was expecting from the government, while only stating, "If you want to lay a railway track, you will require



Eastern railways Additional general manager Sandeep Gupta said that 67 stations have been identified and the scheme is operational for the last three months.

Under the scheme, a handicraft artist or a vendor can reserve a kiosk for a small 15 days.

In another event, the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Federation of Hosiery Manuf Association of India (FOHMA), the minister said that the Union government is making the textiles industry self-reliant and it has substantially increased funding. FOHMA sought the minister's intervention in developing a mechanism to help small vendors handle volatility in the industry.

South Indian Hosiery Manufacturers Association president A C Eswaran urged the government to support various small vendors and associations across India as its members. PTI BSM CC

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