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Annexure

Superiority of Jute and Jute Goods Over Synthetic

Jute enjoys some specific inherent merits which offer a wide scope for its diversified end-uses. That is why jute has been able to withstand against the increasing competition from synthetic products during the last twenty years. Some of the important merits of jute are:

1. Jute being an agricultural yield can be grown in large quantity in a short period by extensive and intensive cultivation and thus ensures abundant supply and inexhaustible source of fibre without adverse effect while production of synthetic generates ecological problem. It is obtained from non-renewable sources. Moreover, jute does not cause pollution as it is biodegradable and mixes with soil after decomposition but synthetic causes pollution.

2. High tensile strength of jute ensures durable performance in end-uses under the conditions of mechanical stress and strain whereas synthetic can be produced in light weight for a given tensile strength.

3. Jute does not generate toxic gases when burnt like most of the synthetic products.

4. Jute conversion process is labour intensive and requires
relatively simple machinery. In contrast, synthetic production is capital and energy intensive and employs sophisticated machinery.

5. Jute does not have high extensibility like synthetic and therefore, provides better dimensional stability in its products.

6. Jute causes no fibrillation when exposed to ultraviolet rays of the sun whereas synthetic does.

7. Jute has inherent fire retardant quality. It resists shrinkability to temperature fluctuations and maintains its basic properties. These qualities can be further improved by simple chemical treatments. On the contrary, synthetic suffers from high thermal sensitivity.

8. Jute is hygroscopic and construction being porous in nature helps breathing whereas synthetic does not.

All these qualities of jute make its construction preferable in different uses.

Unlike synthetic bags, jute sacks are considered cheaper by virtue of its resistance to handling by hooks, i.e., quality of self-sealing against hook damage, and can be re-used several times. Moreover, jute sacks fetch re-sale value even after frequent uses. Jute sacks can bear the repeated rough and jumbling handling and prove to be untearable. The rough surface of jute sacks and its low extensibility allows stable stocking to a greater height after filling as against synthetic bags' non-hairy smoother and slippery surface with bulging quality
preventing them from stockpiling up. Consequently, the cost of storing in jute bags becomes less.

For sacking of grains, sugar and such commodities which require air evaporation, jute bags are ideal because of their hygroscopic nature and porous construction. Thus, jute bags ensure longer storage with least deterioration in quality of the commodity sacked. On the contrary, synthetic packs are non-hygroscopic and do not facilitate ventilation service.

Polypropylene fibrillates on ultraviolet rays and causes contamination to contents like wool and cotton. Jute packs are free from such drawback.

In case of carpet backing jute has recently proved its superiority over synthetic. The rough and hairy surface of jute help for stable, stronger and durable latex bonding between primary and secondary backing at low cost. Additionally, temperature variation does not affect the dimension of jute carpet backing resulting into satisfactory performance of carpet in end-uses whereas synthetic backing is sensitive to temperature fluctuations in terms of dimension and therefore, leads to problems in end-uses.

Recent studies have also revealed several drawbacks of foam which have created problems for the carpet manufacturers. Foam is found less lasting due to variation in floor temperature; a consequent result of the use of glue in installation. This
problem can be solved by using some chemicals but they are
costlier. Moreover, another distinct problem came into
knowledge when first installed foam carpets were being replaced
and that was the high cost of scrapping. Jute backed carpets,
if used require less charges for scrapping. "There are good
prospects for jute backing in the EEC for carpets in hotels
and offices requiring rapid turnover where foam is not
particularly suitable."* Stringent fire retarding standards
are being enforced in European countries which are now causing
depression in the use of foam.