

Decline in India's Textile Exports

2330. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRIYADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's Textile Exports have declined considerably;
- (b) if so, the comparative figures during the April 2000 to February 2001 and April 2001 to February 2002; and
- (c) the action proposed to boost textile exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) As per DGCI&S data, the textile exports during the year 2001 -2002 have amounted to US\$ 10715.0 million as against the exports of US\$ 12037.6 million during the previous year, marking a decline of around 11.0%. However, textile exports during the period April 2002 amounted to US\$913.7 million as against the exports of US\$774.1 million during the same period 2001, recording a growth of 18.0%.

(b) The value of textile exports from the country during the period April 2000 to February 2001 and April 2001 to February 2002 are given below:-

	Value (in US\$ Million)		%
	April-February 2000-2001	April-February 2000-2001	increase/decrease of 2001-02 over 2000-01
Textile Exports	10931.5	9815.2	-10.2%

Source:DGCI&S, Calcutta

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to increase textile exports. Some of the important initiatives are:-

- (i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

- (iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.
- (iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought to 5%. A programme has also been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.
- (v) Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route has been allowed in the textile sector with a few exceptions.
- (vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (vii) To prepare and sensitise the textile industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

Lifting ban on Shahtoosh weaving

2331. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that as per the news-item in the Indian Express dated the 2nd July, 2002 there would be an attempt to lift the ban on Shahtoosh weaving;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware of a study done by the Wildlife Trust of India on the Shahtoosh workers in the Kashmir valley;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the ingredients that go into the making of Shahtoosh Shawl;

(f) whether these ingredients are banned; and