

[12 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

Textile exports

2335. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite its comparative advantage, Indian textile exports were adversely affected due to unfriendly attitudes of some countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that anti-dumping investigations were conducted repeatedly on products like cotton fabrics and bed linen;

(c) the countries or trading partners who introduced unilateral changes in the rules; and

(d) how the Government proposes to face the challenges which includes the ban of Azo dyes to improve the textile exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASAN GOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) Indian textile exports were adversely affected due to general slowdown in the economies of some of our major trading partners like the US and increased competition from our neighbouring countries like China, Bangladesh etc. Indian textile exports have also faced anti-dumping and other non-tariff barriers from the importing countries, which *inter-alia* includes repeated recourse to anti-dumping proceedings by European Union on India's cotton textile export product especially on cotton fabrics and cotton type bed-linen; changes introduced by the US in its 'Rules of Origin' criterion etc.

(d) The Government has been taking a number of measures to assist the textile trade industry and exporters in India to meet the challenges posed by the ecological requirements. Some of the initiatives are as under:

- (i) The Textile Committee, Textile Research Association, Export Promotion Councils and other organisations organised a number of seminars and workshop at all the textile centres for creating awareness about the ban on Azo dyes and for providing guidance for the manufacture of eco-friendly textiles.

- (ii) Government have prohibited the handling 112 dyes which are capable of releasing any of the harmful amines under usage through reductive cleavage process.
- (iii) The Government has further set up 23 laboratories, in different parts of the country, with sophisticated instruments capable of testing textiles to assess their conformance as per the requirements.

****WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED
QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 8TH AUGUST, 2002**

Labour abuse

*361. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "India rapped on labour abuse" published in the 'Times of India' dated the 20th June, 2002; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGHVERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main points raised in the news-item which relate to a report by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) are (i) abuse of Core Labour Standards, (ii) widespread child labour, (iii) employment of child labour in export related sectors, (iv) absence of freedom to protest resulting in death of 17 workers and their family members in Tamil Nadu for demanding increase in poverty wages, and (v) ICFTU's request to WTO to work intensively with the Government of India. However, no such report has been received by the Government.

The position with reference to the above issues is as under:

India supported the adoption of the ILO Declaration on

** The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, the 8th August, 2002 was adjourned due to interruptions in the House. Answers to questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Monday, the 12th August, 2002.