

process house owned by a registered Apex Handloom Co-operative Society or a State Handloom Development Corporation are exempt from excise duty:—

- (a) Woollen;
 - (b) Cotton; and
 - (c) Certain blends of polyester/cotton and polyester viscose.
- (4) The woollen fabrics produced on handloom and processed by an Independent processor approved by Government of India are also exempt from excise duty.
- (5) The excise duty on cotton fabrics produced on handlooms and processed by an Independent processor approved by Government of India is levied at a concessional rate.
- (6) Articles of apparel and made up textile articles made out of handloom fabrics are exempt from excise duty.

Ban by Germany on import of Ejo Coloured clothes from India

†2326. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the ban imposed by Germany on import of such clothes from India wherein Ejo Colour has been used;

(b) if so, whether such clothes contain an excessive quantity of "carrenojence" in them; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard and the amount of loss the country is likely to suffer as a result of ban on such imports to Germany?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHFU BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) Germany had imposed a legislative requirement prohibiting use of specific azo dyes which are harmful to human being, in the manufacture of textile products in Germany and imported into Germany irrespective of the country in which textile

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

items are manufactured. The German requirement for not using specific azo dyes releasing any of the 20 harmful amines in the manufacture of textiles came into force with effect from 1 st April 1996. As per the method adopted by Germany, the presence of each of the amines upto a quantity of 30 ppm is permissible.

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 imposed by Germany. Some of the initiatives are as under:

- (i) The Textile Committee, Textiles Research Association,. Export Promotion Councils and other organizations organised a number of seminars and workshop at all the textile centres for creating awareness about the German ban 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 of India 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 of Germany.

As a result of the various measures taken, the usage of harmful dyes and chemicals in manufacturing of textiles and apparels, particularly those meant for exports has come down significantly since 1996. India's textile and clothing industry is in a position to effectively meet the situation arising out of German ban and there has been no downfall in textile exports to Germany on account of inability of our industry to meet these eco-specification.

Development of Sericulture

2327. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how much of money was received from external sources for the development of sericulture for the last 3 years;