

Textile Export

889. SHRI RAMCHANDRIAYA RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the share of India's textile export; and

(b) the steps taken to provide a large market for textiles export, especially by negotiations at the W.T.O. meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES: (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As per data available for the year 1997, India's share of the world textile exports is about 2.5%.

(b)

(i) The Government is trying for faster integration under Agreement of Textiles & Clothing at all appropriate Fora.

(ii) Meetings have been held recently with US and EU where our case for greater market access has been emphasised.

(iii) The Quota Restrictions imposed by Turkey were challenged in Dispute Settlement Body of WTO and case has been decided in the favour of India.

(iv) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to increase exporters. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:—

(1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, which has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.

(2) The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

(3) Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) System for encouraging non-quota exports to quota and non-quota countries has been retained to boost exports in apparel sector value added segment of Indian textiles.

(4) Reduction in the threshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery to Rs. one crores.

- (5) Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units.
- (6) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.

Quota Regime in Textile Exports

890. SHRI K. KALAVANKATA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to remove quota regime in textile export market;
- (b) if so, Government's plans in this regard; and
- (c) the other steps taken to give benefit to textile exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Under the Agreement on Textile & Clothing, which is in effect from 1-1-1995, the quotas by importing developed countries, i.e., USA, Canada and the countries of European Union, are getting phased out. These will get phased out completely by 31.12-2004.

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to benefit exporters. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:—

- (i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, which has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.
- (ii) The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.
- (iii) Reduction in the threshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery to Rs. one crores.