

removal of Minimum Export Price (MEP) were discussed extensively by coir Board with the representatives of exporters, workers and small scale producers of coir products. Some of them are opposing removal of MEP while some are in favour of removal of MEP.

Assam Proposals for Textile Sector

2292. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The details of proposals received from Assam concerning Handloom Development Centre, market development, thrift fund, health package, and quality dying unit scheme, for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan, indicating sanctioned amount utilised and achievement made so far; and

(b) The details of proposal received from Assam for Craft Development Centre, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Market Development Support, Design and Technical Development and Trading Scheme, amount already sanctioned against each of the proposals, indicating location-wise/achievement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Scheme-wise details of funds released during 9th Plan to State Government of Assam indicating utilisation certificate are given as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount Released during 9th Plan from 1997-98 to 1999- 2000 (till date)	Remarks
1.	Handloom Dev. Centre and Quality Dying Unit	—	No proposal received.
2.	Market Development	114.80	—
3.	Thrift Fund	—	No proposal received.
4.	Health Package	54.40	UC received for Rs. 32.00 lakhs.

(b) Scheme-wise details of funds sanctioned to the State Government of Assam during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (till date) indicating locations are given as under:—

(Rs. In lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount Sanctioned in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (till date)	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Craft Dev. Centre	10.06	Simlitola and Dubari
2.	Workshed-cum-Housing	12.85	Nalbari and Goalpara
3.	Marketing Support	47.32	Borjhar and Guwahati

1	2	3	4
4.	Design and Techn. Dev.	3.00	Laxmipur and Jorhat
5.	Training	9.12	Guwahati, Nalbari, Dhubri, Nagoan, Boidura Halflong, Karimganj, Sandholi and Barapata

Setting up Cotton Board at Hyderabad

2293. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government had submitted a proposal on 17th November, 1996 for setting up statutory Cotton Board, with headquarters at Hyderabad, on the lines of Coffee Board, Tobacco Board, etc.; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) In 1998, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had written a letter to the Prime Minister of India, *inter alia*, suggesting for setting up of an All India Cotton Board on the lines of Tobacco Board etc. to look into all aspects of cotton. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was informed that there are already a few bodies/agencies, such as Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), The Directorate of Cotton Development (DCD), Indian Cotton Development Council (ICDC) and Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) to take care of the growth of cotton sector and there is no need for a separate Cotton Board.

Objections of AIHFMC Society on New Textile Policy

2294. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited has urged the Union Government not to accept the recommendations of the Satyam Committee for drafting the new textile policy;

(b) if so, the objections raised by them; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to help the Handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The main objections relate to the recommendations on the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and the Handloom Reservation Act. The Society has pointed out that if the Hank Yarn Obligation order and the Handloom Reservation Act are done away with, it would lead to major problems for the handloom sector which is already suffering from various handicaps, therefore the Government should not accept the recommendations.

While finalising the New Textile Policy, the points raised by the All India Handloom Fabric Marketing Cooperative Society will be kept in mind.