

mated to have increased by 10.5 percent during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98.

National Jute Programme

2623. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) aided National Jute Programme has failed to develop economically viable mini jute mills;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are taken or proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. UNDP had provided equipments to 6 entrepreneurs through New Central Jute Mills, for setting up spinning units at different locations in the country. Out of these, 2 units are at present under profitable commercial production. Rest of the units could not be commissioned due to some teething problems including delay in supply of equipment, low voltage supply, non-mobilisation of resources etc.

(c) In order to determine the viability of mini jute spinning projects these have been subjected to techno-economic appraisals and, inter-firm comparisons, to determine productivity level, the return expected and measures needed to improve their productivity and profits.

The Government has introduced Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme in April 1995 under which entrepreneurs have been given freedom to procure equipment from any vendor for setting up mini spinning unit. A number of applications have been received under this scheme of which 29 have been approved and 14 have gone into production.

लखनऊ स्थित परिधान डिजाइनिंग संस्थान को अनुमोदन

2624. श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी: क्या वस्त्र मंत्री 10 जून, 1998 को राज्य सभा में अतारंकित प्रश्न 1647 के लिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने लखनऊ स्थित परिधान डिजाइनिंग संस्थान के प्रस्ताव को स्वीकृति दे दी है;

(ख) क्या इस संस्थान हेतु प्रस्तावित राशि में केन्द्रीय सरकार के अंशदान के रूप में 3.84 करोड़ रुपए की राशि केन्द्र से राज्य को प्राप्त होनी थी;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या उक्त राशि प्राप्त हो गई है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और इस संबंध में पूरा ब्यौर क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशीराम राणा): (क) जी, नहीं। राष्ट्रीय फैशन प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान का एक केन्द्र लखनऊ में खोलने का एक प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है जिसकी जांच की जा रही है।

(ख) से (घ) उपरोक्त (क) के मद्देनजर प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Woolen Textile Industry

2625. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps taken to improve Indian Wool Textile market to make it globally competitive?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): The wollen industry in India is both in the organised and decentralised sector. To supplement the efforts of State Government(s), various steps have been taken by the Central Government to improve the Indian woollen sector so as to make it globally competitive. Some of the important steps taken are indicated below:—

- (i) Gradual decrease in customs duty on import of apparel grade raw wool from the level of 45% to 20%.

- (ii) Decrease in Customs Duty for import of carpet grade wool to 10%.
- (iii) Concessional rate of import duty at 10% on import of woollen machinery required for modernisation.
- (iv) Specific projects are taken up for research and development through Wool Research Association.
- (v) Testing facilities have been provided at important locations.
- (vi) Through Wool & Woollen Export Promotion Council, the industry participates in international trade fairs and exhibitions.
- (vii) The proposed Technological Upgradation Fund would cover Weaving and Processing sector of the woollen textile industry.
- (viii) NIFT has created a Knitwear Design Centre for development of fashions on international level.
- (ix) Various development schemes are implemented through Central Wool Development Board for improvement of Wool Sector.

Ban on Production of Items in Powerloom Sector

2626. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has banned the production of 22 types of cloth items on powerloom;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government are aware about the loss of employment because of such decision;
- (d) the steps taken by Government to protect the interest of the workers;
- (e) whether Government are also aware about the closure of the powerloom units in Bhagalpur, in Bihar; and

(f) if so, the details regarding the assistance provided to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) government has not banned any cloth to be produced on powerlooms. However, vide its order No. SO-557(E) dated July 26, 1996, the Ministry of Textiles reserved 11 articles of textiles for exclusive production by handloom sector under Sub-Section (1) of Section 3 of the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985. This has been done to protect the interests of handloom weavers.

(c) and (d) There is no information about loss of employment as a result of that order.

(e) and (f) There is no report about closure of powerloom industry at Bhagalpur.

Incentive to Sericulture Farmers of Orissa

2627. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a vast scope for increasing areas under sericulture in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the possibility explored in this regard during the last five years;
- (c) the incentives granted to the farmers to grow silk in that state; and
- (d) the details of the areas in that state where sericulture has been started?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) Orissa State produces three varieties of silk. It is the second largest producer of Tasar silk in the country. A small quantity of Mulberry and Eri silk is also produced. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government for development of sericulture industry in Orissa the Central Silk Board (CSB) has established various research/research extension units besides implementing