

Annual report of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation

2620. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Cotton Mills Federation has submitted its annual Report;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions made to check closure of more mills since January, 1998; and

(c) the steps proposed to assist textile mills passing through crisis?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) A copy of the Annual Report (1997-98) of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation has been received, though the Federation is not required to submit a report to the Government.

(b) The Indian Cotton Mills Federation has, inter-alia urged upon the Government to make available adequate credit at reasonable rate of interest to textile units.

(c) Apart from intending to launch a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme to make available to identified sectors of textile industry loans by financial institutions at an interest incentive, the Minister of Textiles and Minister of Revenue have also urged upon the financial institutions/banks to show a flexibility in norms wherever possible, to help the textile industry get out of the problems of shortage of finance.

Rehabilitation of Handloom Weavers

2621. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the proliferation of textile mills have affected the handloom weavers in the country;

(b) the number of handloom weavers affected, State wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate these handloom weaver?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The Central Government does not maintain any data of affected handloom weavers due to the proliferation of textile mills in the country.

(c) The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) extend financial assistance through a number of Schemes, such as, Project package Scheme, Handloom Development Centres Scheme, Development of Exportable product Scheme, Worshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Market Development Assistance Scheme, etc. to develop and promote handloom weavers.

Effect of price hike in textile goods on common man

2622. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the price hike in textile goods and its effects on common man; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the textiles goods are within the reach of common man?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The average prices of mill-made fabrics have shown only marginal increases by 0.4 percent to 1.5 percent in October, 1998 compared with prices prevailing in December, 1997. On the other hand the average prices of powerloom-made cotton and synthetic fabrics actually recorded a significant decline by 6.5 percent and 24.3 percent in October, 1998 as compared with respective prices prevailing in April, 1998. Thus, the question of price hike in textile fabrics does not arise. The per capita availability of fabrics is also esti-

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 दिए 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 खेलने 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%.