

(a) whether it is a fact that the Textile Industry has reduced its production by 25 per cent as they are unable to meet the high input costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether efforts have been made for cutting the cost of cotton by increasing its yield and enhancing the quality to bring it to the international standards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN):

(a) and (b) No, Sir, There is a marginal decline in the production of textile items due to various external and internal factors including high input costs.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken following steps to increase the yield and to enhance the quality of cotton:-

(i) The Government had launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) in February 2000 to increase the production, productivity and quality of cotton fibre in a mission mode. The Mission has achieved success in reducing the contamination and enhancing the quality to the international standard through the upgradation of cotton market yards and modernization of ginning and pressing factories.

(ii) Since 2003-04, the Government had commercially released *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (Bt.) cotton, which is pest resistant, to improve the cotton yield and quality. This new application of technologies *i.e.* biotechnology has resulted in more cotton produced from lands already in production, more efficient use of water resources and less use of farm chemicals.

Proposal of Chhattisgarh regarding handicrafts

†1074. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the details of action taken on the proposal sent for Chhattisgarh in 2007 and earlier for one-time rebate (10 per cent), marketing incentive and frugality fund plan (compensation) for handicrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN):

So far as, proposal for one time rebate (10%) and frugality fund plan (compensation) for Handicrafts is concerned, the same does not fall under the purview in any of the schemes implemented for development and promotion of handicrafts sector. However, for "marketing incentive" programmes implemented through various organizations, following funds have been released in the State of Chhattisgarh during the last three years and current year *i.e.* 2008-09 (upto November):

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount released
2005-06	14.13
2006-07	46.40
2007-08	39.50
2008-09	17.50 (upto November, 2008)

Steps to resolve textile industry crisis

1075. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has assured and announced that the textile sector will take right steps at the right time to resolve the textile industry crisis;

(b) if so, whether Government has decided to pay special attention to textile this year to solve the problems being faced by the sector by holding consultations with the Prime Minister;

(c) if so, the main decisions taken by Ministry to help and assist textile industry to meet the crisis;

(d) whether any special scheme of assistance has been announced by his Ministry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN):

(a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government has announced several relief measures to support the textile industry from time to time, which has been representing that textile exports have been affected by the global recession. Steps taken by Government to help and improve textiles industry include the following:

- (i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganized sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to promote the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- (ii) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units, meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August 2005.