

Employment Service Condition) Act 1996 and building and other construction Workers Welfare Cess Act 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) About 99% of golden quadrilateral work is completed and the work of East-West and North-South corridor is targeted for completion by December, 2010. However, there has been some slowdown in implementation due to problems associated with land acquisition, shifting of utilities, clearance from Railways for Road Over Bridges and poor performance of contractors.

Bhubaneswar to Berhampur is in the stretch of NH-5 between Ichhapuram and Balasore. The reason for non-completion of part of 4-laning is mainly non performance of contractors of three contract packages, namely, Ichhapuram-Ganjam, Ganjam-Sunakhala and Bhadrak-Balasore leading to termination of contracts. Thereafter, there was further delay in completion of balance works due to litigations. The balance works of Ichhapuram-Ganjam and Bhadrak-Balasore have already been re-awarded and Ganjam-Sunakhala stretch is under advance stage of finalisation for re-awarding.

(b) All agencies including multinational are required to abide by labour laws and other rules & regulations as stipulated in respective contract agreements.

Projects submitted by Punjab Government

563. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects submitted by the State Government of Punjab and others in the State pending for clearance as on 1st April, 2009 by his Ministry;

(b) the period since when each project is pending; and

(c) by when each is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):

(a) Nil, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Decline in export of Textiles to USA

564. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of textiles especially to USA has decreased in the current year compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):

(a) and (b) As per the latest available provisional data of Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata, India's textiles and clothing export to the US has indicated a

growth of over 3.82% in Indian rupee terms and a decline of 8.19% in US dollar terms during April-February' 2008-09 over the corresponding period of previous year. The US imports figures of textiles and clothing from top five countries including India during the period of January-April, 2009 are given below:-

US imports of textiles and clothing

(January-April)

(US \$ Million)				
Sl. No.	Country	2008	2009	% change
1.	China	8489	8296	-2.28
2.	India	2072	1780	-14.09
3.	Vietnam	1534	1603	4.50
4.	Mexico	1797	1470	-18.22
5.	Indonesia	1469	1420	-3.38
6.	World	29882	25729	-13.90

(c) The Government announced two stimulus packages on 7th December, 2008 and 2nd January, 2009 to boost India's exports including textiles exports. The measures announced under these packages, *inter alia*, include:-

- i) Additional allocation of Rs.1400 crore to clear the entire backlog of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS).
- ii) All items of handicrafts to be included under 'Vishesh Krishi & Gram Udyog Yojana (VK&GU)'.
- iii) Across-the-board cut of 4% in the *ad-valorem* Cenvat rate till 31.3.2009.
- iv) Interest subvention of 2% upto 31.3.2009 subject to a minimum of 7% per annum on pre and post-shipment export credit (since extended to 30.9.09 in the Union Budget 2009-10).
- v) Provision of additional funds for full refund of Terminal Excise Duty/Central Sales Tax.
- vi) Enhanced back-up guarantee to ECGC to cover for exports to difficult markets/products.
- vii) Refund of Service Tax on foreign agent commissions of upto 10% of FOB value of exports as well as refund of service tax on output service while availing benefits under Duty Drawback Scheme.
- viii) Credit targets of Public Sector Banks revised upward to reflect the needs of the economy.
- ix) State Level Bankers Committee would hold meetings for resolution of Credit issues of MSMEs.
- x) Guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme doubled to Rs.1 crore with cover of 50%.
- xi) DEPB rates restored to pre-November, 2008 levels and extended till 31.12.2009.
- xii) Duty drawback on knitted fabrics enhanced retrospectively from 1.9.2008.