

Steps to promote handicrafts

2876. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether government has taken any step to promote handicrafts in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that a large number of handicraft industries have been closed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by Government to revive the handicraft industries particularly the closed units in the country; and
- (f) the time by when these industries are likely to be reopened for production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For promotion and development of handicrafts in the country, the Government is implementing various schemes during the 11th Five Year Plan, which include: Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana; Marketing Support; and Services scheme; Design & Technology Upgradation Scheme; Handicrafts Artisans Welfare Scheme; Human Resource Development Scheme and Research & Development Scheme.

(c) to (f) No such information of handicrafts industries being closed, has come to the notice of the Government.

Knitwear technology mission

2877. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Knitwear Technology Mission has been set up;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether fund has been sought for the mission to prepare synthetic fibre; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Knitwear Technology Mission is an industry-driven effort initiated in Tirupur with initial support of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).

- (c) No Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Targets and achievements of TUFs

2878. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :