manufacturers making cent per cent export;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. However, the units in Domestic Tariff Area can acquire the status of 100% EOUs after fulfilling the prescribed conditions.

(b) to (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Apparel Millennium Committee for Textile Exports

2010. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up an "Apparel Millennium Committee" under the Chairmanship of the Textile Secretary to prepare a road map to gear up for quota free regime era after 2005 AD;

(b) if so, the detailed terms of reference, including the time frame for submitting the report;

(c) the annual exports of garments during the last five years and the annual targets fixed for such exports for the next five years; and

(d) the details of any special drive undertaken to achieve these targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No. Sir, However, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) have set up "Apparel Millenium Committee" and Secretary (Textiles) has consented to the request of the Council to chair the same.

(b) The terms and reference of the Committee drawn up by AEPC are as follows:—

(i) To ascertain and to suggest formation of policies for creation of a data Bank in the area of fabric manufacturing, fabric processing in India which are fit for readymade garment exports industry.

(ii) To suggest policies and to ascertain quantum, the type and process of fabrics imported in the country meant for re-exports as garments; and to ascertain indigenous production and process of these fabrics in India.

(iii) To suggest policies to create a Data Bank of the available stitching capacities and to suggest modernisation index for textile processing and fabric production, to suggest modernisation index of the garment industry and for those industries which are backwardly integrated.

(iv) To understand and incorporate policies being followed by leading competing countries in the area of imports and exports, manufacturing, custom procedures, market techniques and to suggest short term as well as long term measures to overcome the problems.

(v) To suggest relevant policies changes in labour laws relevant to garment manufacturers for a smooth and homogenous working atmosphere, to understand the prevalent in competing countries, their labour laws, minimum wages, perquisite and issues related to labour productivity, etc.

No time frame has been fixed for submitting the report.

(c) the export targets are fixed on an annual basis, and a target of US$ 6500 million has been fixed for readymade garments for the year 2000-2001. The exports of garments during the last five years are given below:—

Year	Value in US million dollar
1995-96	4502.3
1996-97	4762.1
1997-98	4910.3
1998-99	5269.4
1999-2000	5524.5

Source: Apparel Export Promotion Council.

(d) Government have been taking several steps from time to time for increasing exports. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:

1) The Technology Upgradation Found Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector.
2) The current Export Entilement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 is expected to provide stability with continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.
3) Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) System for encouraging non-quota exports to quota and non-quota countries has been retained to boost exports in apparel sector-value added segment of Indian textiles.
4) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.
5) Exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/ Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units has been liberalised.
6) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings and embellishments has been allowed.

Reduction in Custom Duty on Textiles

@2011. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United States of America has demanded reduction in custom duty on Indian clothes, yarn, industrial textiles and home furnishings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and USA in 1994. As per clause 4 and 5 (b) of the MoU, India has notified the binding at reduced levels for certain textile products indicated in the MoU. These textile products include fibres, yarns, industrial fabrics and home furnishings, besides others.

@Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.