

Financial Assistance to Textile Research Association

†682. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial assistance was provided to Textile Research Association for research work during the last years;

(b) if so, the details of the financial aid provided to this organization annually;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has decided to reduce the financial aid now; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA):
(a) There are the following eight Textile Research Associations (TRAs) in the country which receive financial assistance from the Textile Ministry:-

(1) Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association (ATIRA), Ahmedabad

(2) Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA), Mumbai

(3) South India Textile Research Association (SITRA), Coimbatore

(4) Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA), Ghaziabad

(5) Man-made Textile Research Association (MANTRA), Surat

(6) Synthetic & Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA), Mumbai

(7) Indian Jute Industries' Research Association (IJIRA), Kolkata

(8) Wool Research Association, Thane

(b) The financial aid provided to these organizations during the last five years is as follows:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Amount (Rs. In Lakh)		
	Non Plan	Plan	Total
1999-00	900	662	1562
2000-01	1006	628	1634
2001-02	1243	700	1943
2002-03	1346	864	2210
2003-04	1253	260	1513

(c) and (d) Ever since the formation of TRAs, Government has been providing them financial support to sustain and to undertake research projects. Financial support has been given in the shape of non-plan support for their sustenance while research projects are supported under plan expenditure. The non-plan grants are not linked to any performance or particular parameter. They are being provided to enable these organizations to meet their recurring and certain capital expenditure. The non-plan support being provided to the TRAs has not worked to provide any incentive to increase their earnings. Over the years the establishment expenditure has increased considerably without any significant increase in income of TRAs.

In this context, after a series of meetings with Directors of all the TRAs, it was decided that 50% of recurring expenditure including salaries of the TRAs would be funded from the Ministry as grants. This would, however, not include recurring expenditure incurred on Powerloom Service Centres or any other projects for which specific grants are being made by the Government. This would not exceed total of non-plan and plan grants released during the year 2002-03. Further 10% of the grant released in the year 2003-04 would be reduced every year from the non-plan grants starting 2004-05. In this manner, at the end of 10 years, the TRAs would become financially independent.