

estimates were placed by Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) for 309.00 lakh bales for production of lint cotton in the country.

(c) The Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) estimates the cotton crop periodically based on stakeholder inputs and after taking into account various factors like agro-climatic conditions, pest and disease infestations, cotton arrivals in the Mandi and cotton pressing. The CAB in its 6.1.2011 meeting for the cotton season 2010-11 has arrived at a production estimate of 329 lakh bales.

Setting up of mega handloom clusters

437. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that four mega handloom clusters have been set up in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that not even a single handloom cluster has been set up in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of criteria adopted in setting up of mega handloom clusters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far, four mega handloom clusters at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Sivasagar (Assam), Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu) and Murshidabad (West Bengal) have been taken up.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Four mega handloom clusters as given above have been taken up as these were announced in the Budget for 2008-09 and 2009-10. Each mega handloom cluster has atleast 25,000 handlooms and will be developed in a time period of 5 years with an upper Central Government share of Rs.70.00 crore. Two handloom clusters at Chirala and Madhvaram in Andhra Pradesh, each covering about 5000 handlooms have been taken up in 2006-07 for their integrated and holistic development and are under implementation. In addition, 52 handloom clusters, each covering 300-500 handlooms have been taken up in the State of Andhra Pradesh under the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme during the period 2007-08 to 2010-11 (as on date). Further, 262 Group Approach Projects have been taken up in the State of Andhra Pradesh from 2008-09 to 2010-11 (as on date).

Integrated Handloom Development Scheme

438. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to increase the assistance of Rs. 25000/- to

Rs. 35000/- for construction of workshed for BPL Handloom Weavers under Integrated Handloom Development Scheme due to escalation of cost of building material;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also considering to increase the financial assistance from Rs. 8000 to Rs. 12000 to provide looms to Handloom weavers under Integrated Handloom Development Scheme as the present assistance is insufficient to meet the requirements;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal is to revise the cost for purchase of new handloom from Rs. 8000/- to Rs. 15000/-

(e) Does not arise.

Suspension of cotton exports

439. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has requested Government to suspend cotton exports till the demands of domestic industry is met and cotton prices soften;

(b) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has also informed that there is urgent necessity to build cotton stock during the remainder of cotton picking season that lasts up to January so that the textile sector gets the needed raw material; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the actions taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government of India has initiated the following policy measures to ensure cotton security for 2010-11 cotton season:-

(i) The exportable surplus is identified at 55 lakh bales for the cotton season 2010-11 (Oct.-Sept.)

(ii) Registration has been suspended after the 55 lakh bales exportable surplus has been reached.