

production exceeds domestic consumption. Cotton yarn is under OGL *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2011 and Cotton is under OGL *w.e.f.* 2nd August, 2011, without any quantitative caps.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) provides Plan support for the modernization of textiles industry in the form of interest reimbursement and capital subsidy. Support under the scheme has been increased from Rs. 8000 crores to Rs. 15404 crores under the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The sectors benefited under TUFS are Spinning, Weaving, Processing, Technical Textiles, Jute, Silk, Garmenting, Cotton Ginning, Wool and Powerlooms.

Patenting the Gamosa as an indigenous product of Assam

1215. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has taken steps to patent the Gamosa (Stoll) as an indigenous product of Assam which is a multipurpose handloom product used as customary and traditional product; and

(b) what steps Government has taken to stop selling of machine made Gamosa produced outside the State, as to protect the interest of the local weavers of Assam and N.E. Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government of India provides financial assistance of Rs. 1.50 lakh per product to State Governments/State Agencies to register handloom products under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 which provides legal protection to Geographical Indications of goods etc., and prevents unauthorized use of these by others. However, no proposal has been received from the State Government to patent the Gamosa (stoll) as an indigenous product of Assam under the Geographical Indications of Goods Act.

(b) The State Government of Assam has intimated that State Government has issued instructions to field functionaries to exercise the power conferred under Section 6, 7 and 8 of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 to stop selling of machine made Gamosa produced outside the State.

Target of garment exports

1216. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the target of garment exports has been fixed at US Dollar 14 billion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that to achieve the above, technological upgradation is required urgently;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to enhance the technological upgradation fund scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A target of US Dollar 14 billion has been fixed for garment exports for the year 2011-12. This has been prescribed following a review by the Government of the export performance of various Textiles Exports Promotion Councils during 2010-11.

(c) Technological upgradation is essential for imparting quality and cost effectiveness apart from enhancing competitiveness, in the global markets.

(d) and (e) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been restructured *w.e.f.* 28.4.2011, with enhancement of allocations, during Eleventh Five Year Plan, from Rs. 8000 crore to Rs. 15,404 crore.

Skill development programme for artisans

1217. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed the National Centre for Design and Product Development (NCDPD) and Export Promotion Council for Handicraft (EPCH) to initiate capacity and skill development programmes for artisans across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Plan is to train over 7000 artisans spread across the 30 clusters under the Human Resource Development scheme of artists and craftsmen;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the aim of the Programme is to improve the quality of handicrafts, make them competitive in the international market, improve the skills of craftsmen, upgrade technology, improve design etc.; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) National Centre for Design and Product Development (NCDPD) has been sanctioned Capacity Building Programmes for artisans across the country with the objective to upgrade the existing skill as well as to add the additional skill in