

**Textile hubs in Maharashtra**

3695. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved any proposal to develop textile hub in Ichalkaranji in Maharashtra;

(b) whether there are proposals to develop similar textile hubs in Malegaon and Bhiwandi in Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Government has announced the setting up of a Powerloom Mega Cluster in Ichalkaranji in Maharashtra with a central assistance of Rs.70 crore.

(b) to (d) Government had announced the setting up a Powerloom Mega Cluster in Bhiwandi in Maharashtra in the Budget of 2008-09 under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with a Central assistance of Rs.70 crore. There is no proposal under consideration at present for developing Malegaon as Powerloom Mega Cluster. Government is also developing three Textile Parks at Ichalkaranji, Kagal Hatkanagale (near Ichalkaranji) and Bhiwandi.

**Effect of Chinese coir mats**

3696. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is on its way to become India's largest trading partner in coir and coir products;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Chinese coir mats made from Indian fibre may soon be a real threat to India in future as China is known to be good low-cost manufacturer of all products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what are the safety mechanism are being followed by Government in the above issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) China has emerged as the second largest importer of coir and coir products from India. 93.38% of its import consists of coir fibre and rest 6.62% constitutes other coir products, of which the share of value added coir products like tufted mat, handloom mat and matting is 1.29%.

As per available information, China is importing coir fibre from India for the manufacture of low cost coir mattresses, but so far China has not ventured into the production of coir floor covering like mats, matting, carpets, etc. which are traditionally made in India.

**Places where Mahatma Gandhi's ashes were immersed**

†3697. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of places in India where Gandhi Ji's ashes have been immersed;
- (b) the number of places out of these which located at the bank of a river, and
- (c) the number of places where 'Smadhis' have been built?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Production of hank yarn**

3698. SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has data regarding total production of hank yarn in the previous three financial years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what is the current obligation on spinning mills to produce hank yarn;
- (d) whether Government plans to change these obligation norms in near future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The production of cotton hank yarn during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity (Million Kg.)
2009-10	534.74
2010-11	559.85
2011-12 (April to December, 2011)	393.75

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.