

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKALAKSHMI) : (a) Yes Sir. A target of US\$ 17 billion for garment exports for 2012-13, which was revised to US\$ 18.00 billion following the announcement Foreign Trade Policy Supplement of 5th June, 2012.

(b) Government have introduced several provisions in the Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14, further supplemented in June, 2012, for providing incentives to the T and C sector exports. This includes incentives for exports to focus markets and exports of focus products, interest subvention on pre-shipment credit, duty-free import of trimmings etc. required by the garmenting industry and duty-free import of tools by the handicrafts industry. This apart, financial assistance is being provided to the exporters under the Market Development Assistance Scheme and the Market Access Initiative Scheme, for enhancing market share in existing markets and for exploring new markets.

(c) and (d) The Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme is the engine of textiles industry modernization in India. In the Eleventh Plan period TUFs catalyzed investments of Rs. 1.35 lakh crores with a subsidy utilization of Rs. 11949 crores. The scheme is proposed for continuation in Twelfth Plan with an allocation of Rs. 15886 crore to catalyze investments of Rs. 1.56 lakh crore.

#### **Opening of centres by CCI for purchase of cotton**

1219. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has not opened its centres to purchase cotton from farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there are demands from any State(s) for CCI's intervention to purchase cotton;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action the Ministry has taken on such request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) In pursuance of Government's decision authorizing Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to create a buffer stock of 10 lakh bales

through commercial operations, CCI undertook commercial operations in May, 2012 in Saurashtra (Gujarat), Warangal, Guntur and Adilabad mandis of Andhra Pradesh and in several mandis of Vidarbha (Maharashtra). CCI created a buffer stock of 3.48 lakh bales. No demands were received from other States for commercial operations.

#### **Problems faced by weavers**

1220. DR. T.N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the problems being faced by the weavers and the artisans in various parts of the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government to solve these problems, the details of financial assistance/relief package for debt-ridden weavers and the number of weavers benefited, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the number of weavers and their families being covered under health insurance scheme, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to improve the condition of the weavers and ensuring optimum utilization of funds released for the benefit of the weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Apart from accessing loans from bank, handloom weavers are facing hardship in carrying out their livelihood on handloom alone due to competition with power loom sector, marketing problem, infrastructural constraints and rising yarn prices. Similarly, the constraining features in the handicrafts sector are scarcity of appropriate raw material, lack of infrastructural facilities, lack of working capital, lack of knowledge about appropriate technology, lack of entrepreneurial skills among artisans and competition from machine made products.

(b) To solve the above mentioned problem of credit being faced by handloom weavers, the Government of India has approved two packages for the handloom sector. The first one is a Financial Package for Loan Waiver in the handloom sector called "Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package for Handloom Sector". This Scheme has been approved with a financial outlay of Rs. 3884 crore. The package aims at waiving the overdues of individual handloom weavers and their eligible cooperative societies as on 31.3.2010, and providing them with fresh credit at subsidized rates of interest