

the interests of Indian professionals who contribute billions to that country's economy every year and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the US Government has agreed to the Agreement proposed by the Indian Government; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Minister for Commerce and Industry visited USA from 10th to 14th July, 2013 along with a high level delegation of officers to meet new US Trade Representative, US Commerce Secretary and US Senator Menendez, chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Committee with a view to discussing outstanding bilateral and multilateral issues.

(b) In meetings with USTR, US Commerce Secretary and other representatives of US Government, industry and business and in the India-US CEO Forum, the Minister expressed India's strong concerns *inter-alia* over the proposed US Immigration Reforms Bill and its adverse impact on the Indian IT industry. The Minister further conveyed that the temporary movement of skilled professionals should not be equated with immigration. There was no agreement proposed by the Indian Government as the US Immigration Reforms Bill is pending before the US Congress.

Ancient sites/temples in Uttarakhand declared as World Heritage Sites

*44. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ancient sites/temples in Uttarakhand which have been declared as 'World Heritage Sites' or are under process for such a declaration; and

(b) whether any central cultural study has been conducted, especially with regard to Kedarnath and Badrinath temples and what has been the Ministry's contribution for their preservation?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) No ancient site/temple from Uttarakhand has been declared as World Heritage Site or under process for such a declaration.

(b) Kedarnath and Badrinath temples are not the protected monuments of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and no such study has been conducted. However, ASI has rendered technical advice to Sri Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee for conservation of Kedarnath Temple in October 2012, after a site visit by a Technical Team to Kedarnath.

Measures to revive textile industry

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering serious measures that will revive the textile industry and increase production, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the textile industry has sought working capital at 4 per cent interest subvention to purchase cotton; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (DR. KAVURU SAMBA SIVA RAO): (a) The textile industry has been exhibiting overall growth including increase in production of major commodities such as cotton, yarn and fabric. There is also substantial increase in textile exports. The important schemes for enhancing this growth further are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) A section of textile industry has raised the issue of interest subvention in the working capital to purchase cotton. However no formal proposal has been received.

Statement

List of the schemes run by government to encourage textile industry

1. Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)
2. Restructured Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (RTUFS)
3. Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)