

Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme

2776. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) expires in March this year;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of any information, whether TUFS continues or not, people are perplexed and investors are in dilemma whether to invest or not; and
- (c) the steps the Ministry has taken to continue TUFS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been approved for continuation for the entire 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017).

Reopening of closed jute mills

2777. SHRIMATI JHARNADAS BAIDYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any action to reopen the closed jute mills all across the country including West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal at present. The Government of India has taken up revival of three jute mills of National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited (NJMC) a Central Public Sector Enterprises, namely, Khardah (West Bengal), Kinnison (West Bengal) and Rai Bahadur Hurdutray Motilal (RBHM) (Bihar).

Duty Free Access for Indian Textile Exporters to EU

2778. DR. T.N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the European Union (EU) imports 95 per cent of its textile requirements;
- (b) if so, whether Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have been taking advantage of a duty-free access for their textile items into EU, whereby exports of Indian garments and textiles are getting affected because Indian exporters are subjected to a duty of 9.36 per cent;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government and the necessary steps taken to ensure duty-free access for Indian garments and textiles into EU; and

(d) the reaction of the Finance Ministry for lowering the interest rate subvention for textile exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) As per EURA TEX data release of 2012, EU garment imports are around 46.6% of its total requirement

(b) Yes, Bangladesh and Pakistan are taking advantage of duty free access for the textiles under EU Generalized System of Preference (GSP) arrangement of GSP+ while import from Sri Lanka are allowed duty free under EU GSP provision. Under this the export from these countries does not attract import duty of average 12%, leaving India to a disadvantage of 9.6%.

(c) Ministry of textiles has requested Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Commerce to take suitable measures to increase exports of Indian garments and textiles into EU.

(d) Ministry of Textiles has recommended to Ministry of Finance for extending Interest Rate Subvention Scheme for textiles export till 2016-17.

**Rampant rise in non-functional textile units
across the country**

2779. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the proliferation of non-functional textile units across the country in the recent past, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of such units identified so far by the Ministry and the reasons for their rampant rise; and

(c) the corrective steps and remedial measures taken/being taken by the Ministry to curtail these non-functional textile units and alleviate the problems of textile industry in the country with regard to financial and modernization issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The non functional textile units exist but are not proliferating as evident from the data below:-