

**Accountability of URCs to Parliament and C & AG**

\*378. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to bring the Unit Run Canteens (URCs) under the unified accountability regime by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG);

(b) if so, the details and reaction of Government thereto and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by Government to bring URCs under the Parliamentary purview and arrangement of statutory audit of funds of URCs by the C&AG?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (c) Unit Run Canteens (URCs) are run under the arrangement of Units/ Formations of Defence Services and are funded from regimental/Non Public Funds of Services.

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in its 48th and 75th Reports on Canteen Stores Department ((CSD) recommended/observed that 'the Financial parameters of Services must be harmonized with financial principles of the Government and the URCs be brought under the unified accountability regime so that they do not escape the unremitting the Parliamentary financial oversight.'

In accordance with PAC recommendations/observations, guidelines for utilization and distribution of Quantitative Discount (QD) given by (CSD) have been issued. It has also been agreed that the QD account maintained by the URCs be audited by C&AG.

**Helping Maheshwari saree weavers in marketing**

†\*379. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has any plan to help traditional weavers weaving Maheshwari sarees in Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh for marketing their products in metros, trade fairs and exhibitions successfully;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would make any proposal or arrangement so that the weavers may get more benefit and save themselves from exploitation by traders?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (DR. KAVURU SAMBASIVA RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India provides financial assistance to State Governments and their

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

organisations, including Madhya Pradesh, to organise fairs and exhibitions at various levels starting from district level, State level to National level to organize fairs/exhibitions/craft melas to provide a platform to weavers and their cooperative societies of the country including traditional weavers of Maheshwari sarees to market their products. These events are organised in important cities including metros. During last 3 years and current year, the Government of India has sanctioned 64 various types of marketing events to State of Madhya Pradesh. These events not only provide direct marketing platform to weavers avoiding the middleman, but also help them in understanding the market trend and establishing market linkages.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that State Government, through its organization MP Hastshilp Evam Hathkargha Vikas Nigam, has been selling Maheshwari sarees and other items through its 22 showrooms located in big cities and metros. In order to provide market linkages to weavers, M.P. Hastshilp Evam Hathkargha Vikas Nigam has been organising more than 40 exhibitions every year all over the country where stalls have been allotted to weavers from Maheshwar. In addition to the above, special theme based sales were organized for Maheshwar products in Chennai, Kerala, Mumbai, Bhopal, Indore, Noida and Panaji (Goa).

Further, to provide legal protection for unauthorized use of Maheshwari saree by others, Maheshwari saree and fabric has been registered under the Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999.

(c) The Government of India has been implementing following developmental and welfare schemes for holistic and sustainable development of handloom weavers so that they become self-sustainable and may get more benefit and save themselves from exploitation by traders:-

- (i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS)
- (ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS)
- (iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
- (iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme (MGPS)
- (v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme (DHDS)
- (vi) Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) Package for handloom sector.

During 12th Five Year Plan, Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme have been merged in one scheme with certain modifications which is now known as Comprehensive

Handlooms Development Scheme (CHDS) and Mill Gate Price Scheme also has been modified and will be known as Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS).

In order to get more benefit and save themselves from exploitation by traders, the Government of India provides financial assistance to State Governments and their organizations to organize marketing events as explained in para (a) & (b) above, which provides marketing platform to weavers to sell their handloom products directly to consumers.

**FDI funds invested by foreign companies**

\*380. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 9th Global Capital Confidence Barometer, October 2013, a survey by Ernst & Young (E&Y) has reported that India is the top investment destination among emerging and developed markets, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the quantum of funds invested by foreign companies including Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) during the last three years and the current year and the targets fixed for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow during the said period; and

(c) the steps being taken to attract more FDI?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) :

(a) The 9th Global Capital confidence Barometer, October 2013, a survey by Ernst & Young (E&Y) has reported that India is the top investment destination among emerging and developed markets, followed by Brazil and China at second and third positions respectively.

According to the global consultancy firm, due to the present macro-economic pressure and heavy debt pile, several Indian companies are looking to divest non-core business. This has created a large opportunity for foreign players vying for a greater role in the Indian market. When it comes to investments, the US, France and Japan have emerged as “top three investors likely to invest in India”. The findings are a part of EY’s latest Capital Confidence Barometer report, based on a survey of about 1,600 senior executives from large companies across 70 countries. With respect to India, sectors with the highest level of anticipated investment include automotive, technology, life sciences and consumer products.

(b) The total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) including Non-Resident Indian (NRI) investments during the last three years and the current year is US\$ 143,087 million. Separate data on NRI FDI is not maintained. Government does not fix targets for FDI inflows as FDI is largely a matter of private business decisions.

(c) The Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), including investments from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), where