

(d) The Railway earnings left after meeting the administrative, operating and maintenance charges, pension and dividend are used for modernisation and developmental expenditure on the Railways. Investment in zones are decided on the basis of organizational priorities, plan requirement and overall availability of resources and not merely on the basis of earnings generated by a zone.

Recognition of degrees from Open Universities

1982. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Board recognises the degrees obtained through Open Universities for the purpose of promotion;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the reasons for Southern Railway zone not recognising the same for promotion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir, subject to stipulations by Distance Education Bureau.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Southern Railway is recognizing Degrees if it satisfies the conditions stipulated by Distance Education Bureau.

Requirement of additional funds for TUF scheme

1983. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for effective implementation of Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) in Textiles, it is necessary to release additional funds, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the status of implementation of TUF Scheme so far in the industry and funds allocated and utilized; and

(c) the quantum of funds being allocated in view of the fresh requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The total allocation of ₹ 11952.80 crore

under TUFs for the Twelfth Five Year Plan is sufficient to meet the committed liabilities as well as to attract new investments under the Scheme.

(b) Since its inception, the Scheme has leveraged investments of more than ₹ 2,50,000 crore with subsidy outgo of ₹ 19,000 crore approx.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Safeguarding interests of Muga Silk farmers of Assam

1984. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the world famous and indigenous Golden Muga Silk production of Assam is on the verge of extinction and the fate of the Muga grower is at risk; and

(b) if so, the steps of Government of Assam and Central Government have taken to safeguard the livelihood of Muga silk farmers, promote and motivate the farmers and escalate both silk and the Muga silk production in Assam to develop national and international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Production of Muga Silk in Assam as well as in country during the last five years period is given below, which indicates Muga Silk production, has shown an increasing trend and therefore, it is not on the verge of extinction.

Year	Muga Silk production in India (MTs)	Muga Silk production in Assam (MTs)
2009-10	105	93
2010-11	124	117
2011-12	126	119
2012-13	119	109
2013-14	148	126

The following Statement indicates State-wise Muga Silk production in the country during the last five years (2009-10 to 2013-14). It could be seen from the Statement that the Assam produces substantial quantity of Muga Silk, when compared to other Muga Silk producing States.