

Policy to help textile industry

1543. DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is continuing the policy of helping textile industry and National Textile Corporation by extending financial and logistic support; and

(b) whether the policy is further strengthened to help NTC mills such as NTC Kaleeswarar Mills, Kalayarkovil in Sivaganga district and other Mills in Coimbatore and Ramanathapuram districts in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Ministry of Textiles continues to extend financial support to the textiles industry through various Central sector schemes. As far as National Textile Corporation (NTC) is concerned since 2009-10 no specific financial support has been extended. NTC is pursuing its objectives and goals under the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction scheme, with the active support and guidance of the Ministry.

(b) There is no specific policy to strengthen NTC mills such as NTC Kaleeswarar Mills, Kalayarkoil in Sivaganga District and other Mills in Tamil Nadu in Coimbatore and Ramanathapuram District.

Cotton production

1544. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton production is expected to cross 400 lakh bales next season; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the cotton prices are likely to come down due to lesser demand of Indian cotton, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) For the Cotton Season 2014-15 (October, 2014 to September, 2015), the Cotton Advisory Board has estimated the production of cotton at 400 lakh bales. Due to China's decision to offload its substantial stock of cotton, the market demand is short of supply. This has resulted in prices of cotton coming down. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has started procurement of cotton as per the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Operations for safeguarding the interest of the cotton growers.