

**Formulating a R&D policy for textile industry**

\*350. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's share in US imports of special purpose fabric (technical textiles) and non-woven fabrics was merely 2.6 per cent and 1.2 per cent, respectively in 2013 as compared to China's share of 20 per cent and 15 per cent, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether there is an urgent need to strengthen capabilities to tap this growing market as technology-intensive products are the future, if so, remedial measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government is considering to formulate a comprehensive R&D policy for textile industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) India's share in U.S. imports of special purpose fabric (technical textiles) and non-woven fabrics in 2013 is 1.40 percent and 2.96 percent respectively as compared to China's share of 22.20 and 18.02 respectively.

(b) Yes Sir, there is need to strengthen capabilities of technology-intensive products to tap this growing market. Ministry of Textiles has launched following schemes for promotion and growth of technical textiles:-

- (i) Technology Mission on Technical Textiles (TMTT)
- (ii) Scheme for Strengthening of Database and Standards for Technical Textiles
- (iii) Schemes for usage of Geotechnical textiles and Agrotexiles in North East Region
- (iv) Other Schemes like Revised Restructured Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (RRTUFS), Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Textiles has formulated a New R&D Scheme with a planned outlay of ₹ 149 Crore. Under this scheme, apart from supporting regular R&D work through financing research projects to be undertaken by reputed research agencies and institutions, it would include a special focus on 'green' R&D initiatives which

would support *inter-alia* research innovation, benchmarking studies, dissemination, and compliance with identified best practices and other related activities to encourage the adoption of green initiatives. The thrust would be on ensuring contract research, dissemination and commercialization of the R&D projects which are taken up.

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

#### Rise in price of onion

2991.SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of onion has reduced in the current season as compared to the last season, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the rise in price of onion in retail market, since last more than six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) No, Sir. As per estimates provided by the states, total onion production during 2013-14 was 19769 thousand Metric tonnes which is about 18% higher than the previous year. The production of onion in the country during the last two years is given in Statement (See below). The figures for 2014-15 are not available.

(b) The rise in price of onion is not solely dependent on production but is attributed to several factors such as (i) seasonality, (ii) adverse weather conditions, (iii) cost of transportation, (iv) speculation on impending shortage situation, etc.

#### *Statement*

##### *Production of Onion in the Country*

Year	Production (In '000 Metric Tonnes)
2012-13	16813
2013-14*	19769

Source: Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

\* Provisional