

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The import of rough marble is 'restricted' and only a limited quantity of high value rough marble is permitted for import that constitutes a small percentage of country's total marble production and consumption.

Impact of global recession on cotton growers

594. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton production is surplus in the country due to global recession;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on cotton growers in the country;

(c) whether Government has taken any specific steps for finding any alternative export market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN) : (a) and (b) As per the Second Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture, India's production of cotton during 2014-15 was 351.52 lakh bales (of 170 Kg each) as compared to 359.02 lakh bales in 2013-14 and 356.02 lakh bales in 2012-13. However, compared to the corresponding period of 2013-14, export of raw cotton during 2014-15 (Apr. - Feb. 2015), has declined by 41.32% in quantity terms and 46.60% in value terms. As exports account for a substantial share of India's production of cotton, the decline in exports has resulted in a surplus for the domestic market and has impacted the cotton growers. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has undertaken large MSP operations in all cotton growing States.

(c) and (d) For safeguarding the interests of cotton growers, in general and disposal of cotton to be procured under the MSP operations in particular, Ministry of Textiles has written to Indian High Commissions/Embassies in cotton deficit countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, Turkey, Thailand to explore new avenues for export of cotton for stabilizing cotton prices in India.

Scheme for development of industrially backward States

595. SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified the industrially backward States in the country;