

As per the reports received from the Uttarakhand Government, 30244 units with an investment of 35343.41 crore were set up in the State, since inception of the scheme. This has led to generation of employment for 245573 persons.

**Withdrawal of incentives on silk exports**

666. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has withdrawn the incentives on silk exports under the new export-import policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government to protect the interests of country's silk exporters which create huge employment opportunities to craftsmen and artisans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The Government has not withdrawn the incentives on silk exports under the new export-import policy.

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(c) The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) under the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 notified on 01.04.2015. Under the scheme, many silk products as notified *vide* Public Notice No. 2 dated 01.04.2015 are eligible for rewards on their export. Further *vide* Public Notice No. 27 dated 14.07.2015 and Public Notice No. 44 dated 29.10.2015, the rates, if it is a handicraft item, and country coverage of certain silk products were enhanced. MEIS list includes 21 Tariff lines relating to silk sector. Certain handloom products of silk like scarves, other furnishing articles etc. have been given higher rate of incentive @ 5% keeping in view its high employment generating potential. Duty Credit Scrips are granted under MEIS as rewards to silk products, irrespective of variety, for their export in the notified markets at notified rates. The rewards under MEIS are available to both manufacturer as well as Merchant exporters.

**Licences to A.P. through Patents Act for BT cotton seed production**

667. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh is famous for the production of cotton in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal to grant