

Besides, Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to provide an enabling environment for the industry to meet the emerging global competition and thereby increase India's exports. Some of the important initiatives taken are

- (i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector
- (ii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation
- (iii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports
- (iv) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched

(c) and (d) In order to encourage investments in the knitted and hosiery sector, the Government increased SSI investment limit for these items from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crores. The Budget Speech (2004-2005) has mentioned that 85 items from various sector can be safely taken out of the reserved list. The items to be taken out of the reserved list are yet to be announce

### **National Youth Festival**

395 SHRI S M LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government organizes a National Youth Festival every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the criteria for young people who can participate in this National Youth Festival;
- (d) whether State Governments are encouraged to hold State-level youth Festivals; and