

- (i) MEIS Scheme under new Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20.
- (ii) Restoring Interest rate subvention for pre and post shipment credit for the textile sector.
- (iii) Expanding the scope of Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) since 29.10.2015 to 110 new tariff lines and increase rates or country coverage or both for 2228 existing tariff lines.
- (iv) Increased Duty Drawback rates for some textile articles.
- (v) Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme.
- (vi) Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme.
- (vii) Duty Free import of trimmings, embellishments and other specified item under Export Performance Certificate Entitlement Scheme.

Protecting the interests of employees of Central Silk Board

795. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of employees of the Central Silk Board who are working with minimum wages since more than ten years; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Ministry to protect the interests of those long serving employees along with the details of financial support to these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) At present, there are 1921 farm workers working in the Central Silk Board (CSB). Government has approved the extension of benefits of Temporary Status Scheme, 1993 of the Government of India with effect from 1st July 2015. There shall be an increase in monthly wages of farm workers from ₹ 12,650/- to ₹ 19,200/-.

Sourcing out of cotton from India

796. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Swedish furniture retailer 'Ikea' has proposed to source cotton from India;
- (b) if so, the percentage of cotton, Ikea is planning to source out of the country; and
- (c) the States where the company plans to open its stores?