

(b) whether, presently, Indian textiles/apparels have no significant share in Iranian market due to an extremely high import tax by the Iranian Government;

(c) whether Iran offers immense opportunities for Indian produce, with a combination of western and traditional taste; and

(d) whether a recent trade delegation from India was assured by Iran that the import taxes for textiles and apparels would be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, Indian textiles/apparels have no significant share in Iranian market due to high import tax imposed by the Iranian Government on Indian products.

(c) and (d) Yes, there are immense opportunities for the Indian products with traditional taste in Iran. India and Iran are currently discussing the modalities of signing a bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement but there was no discussion on textiles/apparels during last trade delegation visit from 16-17 May, 2016.

Assistance to handloom weavers

2299. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gives financial, marketing, technical and other kind of assistance to handloom weavers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the State-wise and scheme-wise details of assistance provided over the last two years; and

(c) whether such assistance has helped the handloom industry and the weavers to withstand competition from modern looms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is implementing following schemes/programmes for development of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers throughout the country:

1. National Handloom Development Programme
2. Yarn Supply Scheme
3. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

1. **National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP):** National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) implemented during the Twelfth Plan period provides for comprehensive interventions for cluster development, marketing assistance, concessional credit etc. The guidelines of National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)/Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) was amended in June/August, 2015 to include Block level cluster approach, which provides more flexibility with higher funding by Government of India, discontinuation of the State financial contribution, direct release of funds to implementing agency, direct transfer of funds in the block with a maximum assistance of upto ₹ 2.00 crore for various interventions such as setting up of Common Facility Centre (CFC) including Common Service Centre (CSC), engagement of textile designer-cum-marketing executive, construction of workshed, appointment of Cluster Development Executive (CDE), technological up-gradation, lighting units, skill upgradation, better looms and accessories, etc. Besides, financial assistance of upto ₹ 50.00 lakh is available for setting up of dye house at district level. The funds released during last two years are given in the Statement (*See below*).
2. **Yarn Supply Scheme/Mill Gate Price Scheme (YSS/MGPS):** Yarn Supply Scheme is implemented throughout the country to make available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom weavers so as to facilitate regular supply of basic raw materials to the handloom sector and help utilize the full employment potential of the sector. Under the scheme the freight is reimbursed and depot operating charges @2% is given to depot operating agencies. At present 932 such yarn depots are functioning throughout the country. The funds released during last two years (2014-15 and 2015-16) are as under:-

Sl. No.	Year	Amount released (₹ in crore)
1.	2014-15	127.81
2.	2015-16	321.96

3. **Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS):** In order to enable handloom weavers to avail social security benefits, the Government of India has been implementing Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS) with two components; namely Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) and Health Insurance Scheme (HIS). The MGBBY aims to provide insurance cover to handloom weavers in the case of natural or accidental death and in case of total or partial disability. The HIS aims

at enabling the weaver community to access healthcare facilities. Under Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS) funds are not released State-wise, instead, they are released to the implementing agency as a whole country. The funds released during last two years (2014-15 and 2015-16) are as under:-

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	HIS (Fund released)	MGBBY (Fund released)
1.	2014-15	25.87	16.39
2.	2015-16	01.94	16.67

4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)–

Handloom Mega Cluster: The Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) was introduced in 2008-09 for development of Mega Handloom Clusters. Under the scheme, there was provision for each cluster to cover atleast 25,000 handlooms with upper GoI share of ₹ 70.00 crore in a period of 5 years. The Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) is under implementation during the Twelfth Plan for development of Mega Handloom Clusters. As per the scheme, Mega Handloom Cluster should have atleast 15,000 handlooms and funding upto ₹ 40.00 crore as GoI share is eligible per cluster. The guidelines of Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) was amended in August, 2015 to include Block level cluster in the line of NHDP Scheme. Eight Mega Handloom Clusters have been taken up. The funds released during last two years (2014-15 and 2015-16) are as under:-

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)	776.53	841.91
2.	Sivasagar (Assam)	54.51	12.61
3.	Murshidabad (West Bengal)	515.09	318.92
4.	Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu)	-	-
5.	Prakasam and Guntur Districts (Andhra Pradesh)	3.81	1429.18
6.	Godda and Neighbouring Districts (Jharkhand)	251.85	317.45
7.	Bhagalpur (Bihar)	5.62	-
8.	Trichy (Tamil Nadu)	231.65	745.22

(c) The main aim of these programmes and schemes is to reduce drudgery of handloom weavers, improve productivity and quality of handloom products by providing technologically upgraded looms and accessories and also provide marketing infrastructure support which helped the handloom sector and the weavers to with stand competition from modern looms.

Statement

The State-wise details of funds released under National Handloom Development Programme during the last two years (2014-15 and 2015-16)

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.47	2.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.35	0.98
3.	Assam	4.42	6.41
4.	Bihar	0.19	1.24
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.51	3.86
6.	Delhi	0.04	0.04
7.	Goa	0	0
8.	Gujarat	0.53	0.04
9.	Haryana	0.31	0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.18	1.31
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.53	1.29
12.	Jharkhand	0	0
13.	Karnataka	1.66	1.1
14.	Kerala	0.19	2.62
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.83	1.86
16.	Maharashtra	1.68	0.72
17.	Manipur	2.41	2.42
18.	Meghalaya	0.37	1.81
19.	Mizoram	0.28	4.59
20.	Nagaland	2.65	3.71
21.	Odisha	0.66	7.52
22.	Puducherry	0	0

Sl. No.	Name of State	2014-15	2015-16
23.	Punjab	0	0
24.	Rajasthan	0.57	0
25.	Sikkim	0.6	0.63
26.	Tamil Nadu	7.86	47.36
27.	Telangana	0.84	0.39
28.	Tripura	3.47	1.86
29.	Uttar Pradesh	20.4	1.79
30.	Uttarakhand	0.71	0.67
31.	West Bengal	0.27	0.51

Purchase of cotton by CCI

2300. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the lessons Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), has learnt from last season's irregularities in purchase of cotton, more particularly from States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) whether it is a fact that cotton season has started from 1st October;

(c) how much cotton CCI is expecting to reach the market and the price Government has fixed for various grades, grade-wise;

(d) the efforts made by CCI to make payments online; and

(e) the plan of action CCI has to purchase cotton from farmers in the market yard itself to stop the role of middlemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) During cotton season 2014-15, Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) had to undertake massive procurement under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation and procured 86.97 lakh bales, out of which, about 63% (*i.e.* 54.47 lakh bales) were procured in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Based on the MSP operations 2015-16, CCI has taken the following initiatives:-

- (i) Display of MSP rate and quality parameters in each and every market yards for farmers' knowledge.
- (ii) Adherence of use of moisture meter in case of rejection of kapas having excessive moisture over 12%.
- (iii) All payment to farmers through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) only.