

Opening of textile parks

697. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Textile Parks opened during the last two years;
- (b) the number of Textile Parks to be opened in the next two years, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to make any alternate use of vacant land of National Textile Corporation, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Textiles has sanctioned a total of 25 Textile Parks under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) during last two years. SITP is a demand driven scheme therefore number of parks to be sanctioned in next two years depends upon the response of the investors.

(c) Land of NTC mills can be utilized as per the provision of various Nationalization Acts.

Effect of automation on employment in textile sector

698. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that due to increasing automation in Textile sector, which is the second largest employment provider after agriculture, scope of employment is dwindling in this sector;
- (b) if so, the details of loss of employment occurred in Textile sector during the last five years; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to arrest this trend, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) to (c) Increased automation in the textile sector may result in reducing employment in the textile units to some extent. However, no study is undertaken about the details of the loss of employment occurred in textile sector during the last five years due to automation. To arrest the potential trend, Government has enhanced allocation of funds to schemes including Technology Upgradation Fund (TUFs) and a new package of incentives to promote apparel sector etc. which will expand capacity in existing units and promote setting up of new units. These interventions are estimated to more than compensate for the reduction in employment due to mechanization.