

(c) The seasonal flexibility *i.e.* increase in overtime limit from 50 hours to 100 hours and introduction to fixed term employment are already addressed by Government in the said special package. Apart from this, Government has taken various pro labour and pro industry initiatives like:

1. Reimbursement of entire 12% employer contribution to EPFO
2. Optional EPF for employees earning less than ₹ 15,000
3. Enhanced duty drawback and subsidy under ATUF for apparel manufacturers
4. Modifications under Section 80JJAA of IT Act

All these initiatives will promote economies of scale and A modernization of all segments in the Textile and apparel value chain.

Initiatives for export growth

1490. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to take new initiatives for increasing export growth in the international arena, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to facilitate trade link for the domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Yes Sir, Government has recently announced a package for apparel sector in order to increase export growth in international arena. The details of package are given in Statement-I. *[Refer to Statement appended to the Answer to USQ No.1488 Part (a) to (c)]*

(b) In order to facilitate trade link for domestic industry, the Government is implementing several schemes, the details of which are given in Statement-II.

Statement-II

Details of the schemes and initiatives of Government to facilitate trade link for the domestic industry

(i) Merchandize Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)

Rewards for export are payable as percentage of realized FOB value to all the countries. The reward rates are given below:

Eligible Products	Reward Rate
Textile and Apparel Products (HS Code 50-63: eligible lines)	2%
All handloom and handicraft items	5%
All jute, ramie and coir based items	5%

The duty reward is available to textile and garment exporters in any country globally. Also, Government has withdrawn the requirement of Landing Certificate to avail the benefit of MEIS. This removal of requirement of landing certificate is a major step in ease of doing business.

(ii) Interest Equalization Scheme

Pre and post shipment rupee export credit of 3% is given to Handicrafts, Carpet, Handlooms, Small and Medium Enterprises, Readymade Garments, Made-ups, Fabrics, Coir and Coir Products, Jute and Jute Products.

(iii) Duty Drawback

Duty drawback rates for textile items are given below:

	When CENVAT is not availed	When CENVAT is availed
Cotton yarn	2.5-4.5	1.2-1.4
Cotton fabric	4.3-7.3	1.4-2.0
Man-made fabric	6.6-11.5	1.9-2.4
Apparel	7.2-10.5	2.0-3.5
Home textiles	5.0-10.7	1.9-8.9

(iv) Market Access Initiative (MAI)

- Financial assistance for carrying out marketing projects abroad
- Assistance for building capacity for exporters, export promotion organizations, etc.
- Assistance on reimbursement basis to individual exporters for charges/fees paid by them for fulfilling the statutory requirements in the buyer country
- Assistance for conducting studies
- Assistance in developing projects leading to substantial improvement in market access

(v) Market Development Assistance (MDA)

- Financial support to exporters registered with Export Promotion Councils
- For participation in Trade Fairs/Exhibitions, assistance would be permissible on travel expenses by air in economy class and/or charges of the built up furnished stall, subject to an upper ceiling as given below:
 - Focus Latin American Countries (LAC) - ₹ 250,000
 - Focus Africa, Focus CIS, Focus ASEAN - ₹ 200,000
 - General areas - ₹ 150,000
- For each region, the exporter can claim benefit once a year
- Maximum number of permissible participations shall be 5 in a FY.

Dues of handloom weavers of Maharashtra

1491. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether competition from powerlooms and lack of support from Government are driving weavers to poverty and suicide in Maharashtra;

(b) the allocation for the Textile sector for 2016-17, particularly for the handloom sector;

(c) whether weavers from Maharashtra are yet to receive their long pending dues; and

(d) if so, by when these dues would be released to the handloom weavers of that State?