

**(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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) The Director of Textiles, Government of Maharashtra has informed that no suicide of weavers in the State has been reported.

(b) The total allocation for Textiles Sector is ₹ 3350.00 crore, out of which an amount of ₹ 612.00 crore is allocated for Handloom Sector during the current financial year *i.e.* 2016-17.

(c) No such dues are pending from Government of India.

(d) Does not arise.

**Boost to textile sector**

1492. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved special package for Textiles and Apparel sector to attract investments and to generate exports, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the expected generation of job opportunities in the next three years; and

(c) to what extent the package would boost the sector along with the quantum of garment export estimated in the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Yes Sir, Government has approved special package for Textiles and Apparel sector to attract investments and, to generate exports. The details of package are given in Statement. [*Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ No.1488 Part (a) to (c)*]

(b) The expected impact of the special package on employment generation in next three years are:

- The new package is expected to boost up employment generation.
- More and more garment units will become compliant with respect to statutory dues and more jobs will be generated in formal sector.
- Pro labour reforms like optional EPF, increased overtime limits and fixed term employment will lead to more cash in hand with workers, provide opportunity to earn more and put fixed term workers at par with permanent workers in terms of working hours, wages, allowances and other statutory dues respectively.