

(c) The special package will boost the textile and apparel sector by making larger manufacturing set-ups feasible thereby leading to economies of scale in the sector. It will also improve the attractiveness of garment manufacturing for new investments and exports. The current investment in the sector which is growing at 8% year on year is expected to grow substantially in next three years.

Boost to textile sector

1493. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked out a ₹ 6000 crore special package, with tax and production incentives, for the Textile and Apparel sector to enable domestic firms to compete globally, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the package aims to help in creating one crore jobs, mostly for women, in the next three years, if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard; and

(c) whether the package would strengthen the Indian Textile and Apparel sector by improving its cost competitiveness in the global market, if so, the details and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Yes Sir, Government has worked out a ₹ 6000 crore special package, with tax and production incentives, for the Textile and Apparel sector to enable domestic firms to compete globally. 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 Textile booster package on textile and apparel sector are:

- The new package is expected to boost up employment generation, exports and investment in textile and apparel industry.
- Improve the attractiveness of garment manufacturing for new investments and exports. The current investment in the sector which is growing at 8% year on year is expected to grow substantially.
- Larger manufacturing set-ups will become feasible thereby leading to economies of scale in the sector.
- 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 them at par with permanent workers in terms of working hours, wages, allowances and other statutory dues respectively.

(c) The following initiatives of special package would strengthen the Indian Textile and Apparel sector by improving its cost competitiveness in the global market.

- Reimbursement of entire 12% employers' contribution to EPFO.
- Enhanced duty drawback coverage.
- Additional incentives to apparel sector under ATUFS.
- Enhanced scope of Section 80JJAA of IT Act for apparel manufacturers.

Development and strengthening of handloom sector

1494. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for development and strengthening of the Handloom sector;

(b) how the Comprehensive Handlooms Development Scheme has performed so far; and

(c) the initiatives taken by Government for development of handlooms with special reference to Cluster Development Programme, especially in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) For development and strengthening of handlooms sector, the Government of India through the office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles is implementing the following schemes in the country, including Maharashtra:

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

(b) and (c) Cluster Development Programme was one of the components of Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (CHDS), which has been subsumed under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) in December, 2014 for