

- 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

implementation in 12th Plan period. Cluster Development Programme has been amended in June, 2015 to include Block Level Cluster. Under NHDP, 143 Block Level Clusters have been sanctioned to various States during 2015-16 to 2016-17 (till date). No proposal for Cluster Development Programme or Block level Cluster has been received from Government of Maharashtra.

#### FDI in textile sector

1495. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Textile sector is the second largest provider of employment after agriculture;
- (b) if so, the contribution of this sector in terms of major economic indicators;
- (c) how much FDI has come to this sector during the last three years; and
- (d) whether any specific plan has been made to develop this sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Textile Sector is amongst the largest provider of employment. As per NAS 2015, this sector contributed to 12% of manufacturing, 2% of GDP and 13% of the country's export earning in 2013-14.

(c) The amount of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) made in the textile sector during each of the last three years is given below:

Year	FDI (in US\$ million)
2013-14	198.86
2014-15	197.42
2015-16	230.13

Source: DIPP

(d) Government have taken several initiatives for developing the textile sector including provision of assistance for infrastructure development, upgradation of technology, skill development through schemes such as Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP), Amended- Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (A-TUFS), Integrated