Skill Development Scheme. The Government have also recently announced a special package for the apparel sector with a slew of measures for labour reform and tax concessions for employment generation and enhancing exports.

Revision of mandatory jute packaging limit

1496. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has recommended a downward revision of mandatory jute packaging limits of sugar and food items; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the prevailing limits are not being followed even today, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), in its report on "price Policy for Raw Jute for 2016-17 season" has recommended that the compulsory packaging for jute sacking in foodgrains under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, (JPM Act) should be reduced to the level of 75% and sugar sector should be fully exempted from such mandatory reservation. However, the norms prescribed under the JPM Act provide for compulsory packing of a minimum of 90% of foodgrains and a minimum of 20% of sugar in jute sacking, which are being followed, at present.

Cotton production in the country

1497. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of cotton in the country is far less than targeted during the last three consecutive years;

(b) if so, the reasons behind it and the production for the aforesaid period, State-wise; and

(c) the action plan of Government to sustain productivity and the support extended to cotton farmers during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The area under cotton cultivation during the current cotton season 2015-16 has decreased by around 7% from the previous year due to switching over to other