

2013-14 to US\$ 40.7 billion in 2014-15 thereafter declined marginally by 0.4% to US\$ 40 billion in 2015-16. Major reasons for decline in exports during 2015-16 include the following:—

- Slow recovery in major markets: Global trade of textile and apparel has undergone decline of 6% year on year basis from US\$ 827 billion in 2014 to US\$ 776 billion in 2015.
- Discriminatory import duties on cotton textiles in major markets: Competing countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh have benefit of zero duty or preferential duty access in major markets like European Union (EU), and China. However, Indian textile and apparel exports face discriminatory duties of 9.6% in EU and up to 14% in China.
- Anti-dumping duties imposed by Turkey on man-made fibres and filament yarns from India.

(c) Although there is no consistent decline in exports, yet fast tracking trade agreements with major textile and apparel markets like, European Union (EU) may help to boost exports of textiles.

(d) In order to improve the competitiveness of Indian textile and sector, Government has announced a special package of approximately ₹ 6,000 crores for apparel and made-ups sector. In the apparel package, Government will provide additional 3.67% reimbursement of employer's contribution towards EPFO under Pradhan Mantri Paridhan Rozgar Protsahan Yojana (PMPRPY), enhanced subsidy under Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS), rebate of State levies, relaxation under Section 80JJAA of Income Tax Act and relaxation under certain labour laws to apparel units. Similarly, for the made-ups sector, Government will provide additional 3.67% reimbursement of employer's contribution towards EPFO under PMPRPY, enhanced subsidy under ATUFS, rebate of State levies and relaxation under certain labour laws to made-up units. Apart from the special package, Government is providing export benefits under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Market Access Initiative (MAI) Market Development Assistance (MDA), Interest Equalization Scheme (IES) and Duty Drawback.

Support to textile industry of Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra

3515. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ichalkaranji in Maharashtra used to be known as Manchester of India for having a large number of handlooms for manufacture of quality cotton;

(b) whether Government is aware that majority of handlooms have either be enclosed down or on the verge of closure because of high cost of production and lack of marketing facilities making thousands of craftsmen jobless; and

(c) if so, the steps Government plans to take to support the local Textile industry of Ichalkaranji?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI):

(a) Ichalkaranji in Maharashtra is known as Manchester of Maharashtra for its powerlooms and textile industries.

(b) According to the information received from the State Government, the number of handlooms in Ichalkaranji are very less compared to powerlooms because most of the handloom weavers have diversified to powerloom industry. As per the record, only one handloom co-operative society is registered in Ichalkaranji, and as per the Census of 2014-15 there are 9 handlooms out of which only 3 handlooms are found working in Ichalkaranji.

(c) There are more than 2 lakh powerlooms in Ichalkaranji. Similarly there are about 170 processing and dyeing units in Ichalkaranji. There are 15 co-operatives and 7 private spinning mills in Kolhapur Distt. Under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Park, 4 textiles parks are being set up in Ichalkaranji. Under this scheme, the Central Government has financed ₹ 72.95 crore and State Government has financed ₹ 14.61 crore. Apart from this, Government of India has sanctioned a Mega Cluster Project in Ichalkaranji.

Measures to provide relief to powerloom industry

3516. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention is drawn to the newspaper report under the caption "Powerloom industry stares at shutdown" appeared in a leading daily, dated the 26 November, 2016;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to provide relief measures to the Powerloom industry, including supply of yarn on credit basis and asking banks to provide liquid cash to the industrial units located all over the country to tide over the situation?