

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction to promote handloom business and whether Government will make it mandatory at least in Government Departments and Institutes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal to make the handloom clothes mandatory in all Government departments, school and colleges wherever there is a uniform or dress code.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Survival of small and medium scale textile industries

475. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many small and medium scale industries are facing extremely miserable condition, resulting in unemployment and bankruptcy of thousands of weavers in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government is considering to link the recent textile package of ₹ 6000 crore with precondition of manufacturing garments by utilizing Indian fabrics only under forward fabric policy, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for survival of small and medium scale industries from closure?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Weaving units in some of the clusters in the country are working at sub-optimal capacities due to increase in cotton yarn prices and cheap imports of fabrics from neighbouring countries.

(b) In order to give boost to employment in the garmenting sector, Government has announced a special package for the sector which provides relaxation in certain labour laws, income tax concession, 100% employers contribution to EPFO by Government, enhanced duty drawback for exports etc. Government implements various Schemes for the development of decentralised powerloom sector such as Amended Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (ATUFS), In-situ Up-gradation of Plain Powerloom, Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development (ISPSD) and Group Insurance Scheme for Social Security.

(c) No, Sir, under the package there is no pre-condition of manufacturing garments by utilizing Indian fabric.

(d) As in (b) above.

**Setting up of Indian Institute of Fashion Technology
in Andhra Pradesh**

476. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to establish Indian Institute of Fashion Technology in Andhra Pradesh as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the proposed outlay for establishing this project; and

(c) the incentives being provided for establishment of this Institute?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI):

(a) State Government submitted a proposal for establishing National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in Andhra Pradesh. The Board of Governors (BOG) of NIFT gave approval for engaging with the State Government to undertake a feasibility study-cum-detailed project report. State Government proposed "Kondapavuluru" as site which is 30 kms from Vijayawada and was not found suitable.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

Free Trade Agreement with European Union

477. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with China's export growth in textiles dipping and India enjoying cost advantages, Government would explore the possibilities of entering into a Free Trade Agreement with European Union (EU) which has huge market potential;

(b) whether India is better placed *vis-a-vis* Bangladesh and Vietnam, both enjoying preferential treatment on tariffs and low labour costs, in terms of advantage of environmental compliances demanded by EU; and

(c) whether India is striving hard to capture new markets, after its textile exports dipped 3.3 per cent in 2015-16?