

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) The Ministry has received several representations wherein the trade bodies have mentioned that under the GST regime, the tax on Man made fibre/filament and yarn is 18% while that on fabric is 5%. With an inverted duty structure at the fabric stage and no refund of unutilized input tax, the manufacturer will have to bear the stranded tax making him uncompetitive. Further, the effective duty on import of Manmade fabric under the GST regime has reduced substantially thereby reducing the market competitiveness of the domestically produced Manmade fabric further *viz-a-viz* the imported Manmade fabric.

Given the unorganized nature of the industry and the multiple job works involved at each stage in the textile value chain, the Industry has also separately raised the concern of decreasing the job rate from 18% to 5% across the Textile value chain.

All the above concerns raised by the Industry have been taken up by the Ministry of Textiles with the Ministry of Finance/GST Council.

(b) No Madam. While some strikes have been reported, no closure of textile units have been reported on account of GST.

(c) Question does not arise.

#### **Export of apparels**

3037. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is way behind in export of apparels compared to Bangladesh and Vietnam, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Textile Policy of the country, introduced about 17 years ago, is the main reason for under-exploitation of the available resources; and

(c) whether there is any plan to replace the old Textile Policy with a new one to give a boost to the industry soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The apparel export values of Bangladesh, Vietnam and India in 2016 are as below:—

Country	Exports Value, (US\$ Bn)
Bangladesh	33.4
Vietnam	24.7
India	17.0

Source: DGCI&S, ITC Trade map.

The main reason for India's lack of competitiveness in garment exports as compared to Vietnam and Bangladesh include higher tariff rates imposed on Indian exports and the relatively lower input costs in these countries.

(b) and (c) With a view to promoting exports and employment, Government of India has launched a special package for garmenting and made-ups sector in 2016. This package includes several policy measures which are aimed at reducing labour cost, providing additional incentive for technology upgradation and also measures for incentivising exports.

**Coverage of Handloom and Powerloom Weavers  
under Insurance Schemes**

3038. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to bring handloom and powerloom weavers under the health insurance scheme of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) the approximate number of weavers likely to be covered under the scheme in the country, particularly in Odisha, where a large number of weavers and their families are in this business; and

(d) by when the scheme is likely to be implemented in the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

**Encouraging silk production**

3039. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Champa in Chhattisgarh has potential for silk production and silk fabrics; and

(b) whether Government has plans to encourage silk production and its manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Yes, Sir. Champa District in Chhattisgarh has good potential for Tasar silk reeling, weaving and trading activities. This district is unique for all the activities