

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

in sericulture right from silkworm rearing to fabric production. It is famous for its Kosa silk mainly produced in Chhattisgarh by the tribal which resides in the Gondwana and other forest belts.

(b) Yes. The Government has taken following steps to encourage silk production in Chhattisgarh State including Champa region:—

- (i) Integrated “Soil to Silk” Tasar project in Janjgir-Champa District of Chhattisgarh has been approved with a total financial outlay of ₹ 68.53 crore for a period of three years, from 2016-17 to 2018-19. The project involves Government of India share of ₹ 22.88 crore, against which ₹ 86.91 lakh have been released to Chhattisgarh State till 2016-17 for implementation of the project. The project envisages to develop 2,500 hectares of new block Tasar plantations and maintenance of 2,000 Ha. of existing block plantations in forest/community land, besides support for building forward and backward linkages to facilitate basic and commercial seed production, supply of rearing appliances and disinfectant for disease management to Tasar rearers for ensuring crop productivity, cocoon storage facilities, supply of buniyaad reeling machines, reelers collectives, cocoon bank, marketing support and capacity building of the farmers, seed producers, reelers and weavers in the project area.
- (ii) Actions have been taken during 2016-17 for shifting of Central Silk Board’s Research Extension Centre, Kathghora to Champa for providing technological support and training to the project for implementing pre-cocoon components of the project, raising of new Tasar block plantations in 570 Ha. area with assistance from Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) Scheme of Department of Forest, distribution of 105 Buniyaad Reeling machines to the reelers to eliminate practice of thigh reeling, organizing two day “Technology Demonstration” on newly developed reeling/spinning machine at Champa and training of 160 weavers for enhancing skill in silk weaving and related activities.

**Revival of Sambalpuri Bastralaya H.L.C.S. Ltd., Odisha**

3040. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of production of handloom clothes in the country per year and the share of the cooperative sector in the total production;